

ECGF4006P

Module 4

Learning E – Portfolio

Blame it on the weatherman

What do you consider to be the biggest threat to humankind and why?

We as British people love to complain

One topic we love to complain about is the weather, “it is freezing, roll on summer” and then during summertime you hear how boiling hot it is and “I am not coping in this heat.” Finally, when the weather is not predicted correctly, we blame it on the weatherman.

Do you ever hear people complaining about the wicked problems in the world, do people understand what is really going on or is it just an inconvenient truth that is easier to ignore?

The summers are getting hotter and according to NASA, the hottest years on the planet have all occurred in the last ten years, with 2021 being the hottest year to date. (Davis, 2022). We have seen weeks without rainfall and crops are failing, (Ocha, 2020). Wildfires have caused masses of damage in the U.S, Italy, Greece, and Turkey (Davis, 2022) causing millions of destroyed homes, including the wildlife and their habitats.

While winters are becoming milder; Storms are getting stronger with heavier rainfall causing flooding and disruptions (Ocha, 2020). Global sea levels had risen over 8 inches in the last century, which is nearly double the figure of its expected sea rise, (NASA, 2023). The Greenland ice sheet alone can cause a rise in sea level of up to 20 inches (11 et al, 2022), catastrophic you could say. Good-bye coast lines and hello homeless refugees. Are we ready to face the upcoming tragedies or are we going to ignore the truth and let our children's children face the real problems to come?



Is climate change the biggest threat to humankind?

The planet heating up is not the only cause for concern, did you know air pollution can induce stroke and heart attacks? the tiny particles can absorb into your body and into your bloodstream killing an estimated 3.6 million premature deaths, (McKeever, 2021), how terrifying. Heatwaves can cause fire, but they can seriously shut down the human body too, weakening the muscles. Even your heart muscles will need to work extra hard to accommodate the extra heat. Dehydration can damage your kidneys. Deadly diseases are being spread by mosquitos as they begin to travel wider than usual, due to the changes in temperature (McKeever, 2021) and that is just the beginning. Scared? I would be. Not only is our world at risk but our health is too, it is time we wake up and see climate change for what it really is, a wicked problem, out of our control, that we humans, have let happen through greed, ignorance, and power. Yes! Climate change is a real threat, and it is bigger than any of us can control alone.

**How did WE
get here ?**



Back in the 1700's

After the start of the industrial revolution, people began building more industrial sites burning fossil fuels which add to the earth's natural greenhouse effect. The trapped gases increase the temperature on the earth's surface and being unable to escape resulting in a higher temperature, (Gramling, 2022) also known as the greenhouse theory.

Where more sites are being build precious lands are being killed, that's right, deforestation. This is where trees are chopped down, used for fuel, or removed so the land can be used to build on. According to the world wildlife fund (WWF) "15 billion trees are being cut down every year", for our selfish needs of course. Not only does our forest provide animals with home shelter and food, but they also absorb and store carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere and release

oxygen, (Derouin, 2022). They serve a purpose that benefits our health and our planet, and we are destroying them.

But it does not stop there ...

Many say we are the cause of climate change; we continue to overuse our resources. We waste, and we have a need for more all the time. Living in a materialistic generation and forgetting our roots. The planet was doing fine before we got here.



Climate change is a myth some would say.

Without a doubt, humans are the biggest cause for human led climate change and research can back that, but what if climate change was all a myth....

My crazy theory - no matter how badly we damage the earth, the earth will always try to restore balance.

That does not mean it will protect us, oh hell no. Earth will heat up and cold down finding balance where balance is needed. Not to protect the world us humans created, full of pollution, rubbish, and chemicals but to correct the damage we have caused. My fear, we will not be around to see it. The last man standing will be PLANET EARTH.

MAN – 0 vs EARTH - 1

Jodie Todd

So, are people willing to go that extra mile and do something about the ongoing issues on our planet, be a good global citizen? Or will they ignore it and find something less complicated to complain about?

I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU 😊

Why not see your carbon footprint, [click here](#) to be part of the solution.

#GLOBALCITIZEN

A new generation needs a new education

Bringing climate change to the classroom.

Identify and evaluate the skills needed to promote dealing with climate change in education.



One thing I have come to understand while working in education is how much an education can influence children's behaviours and attitudes, (Nations, 2010). Having an overall impact on the decisions they make now and in the future. According to The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) education is a "Critical agent" in addressing climate change, (Nations, 2010). By spreading awareness through the curriculum, using climate literacy, children can understand the benefits of being a good global citizen and truly begin to understand the seriousness of climate change.

To deliver essential information through education, teachers need access to accurate information and useful resources to help educate themselves. NPR/Ipsos did a national poll and investigated how many teachers were able to teach children about climate change. 17 percent of teachers said they did not know much about the subject to teach it. Another 17 percent of teachers felt they did not have enough materials to teach the topic, (Kamenetz, 2019). I find that shocking considering climate change is one the greatest threats of our time, (Cambridge, 2022)

How to promote climate change in education?

I am starting to understand that to tackle climate change and promote change in education, there must be mandatory procedures in place. One rule for all, we tackle the problem together.

Working in partnership with teachers, governors, parents, and children. To promote climate change in education we need

- Walk, cycle or scoot to school policies (with rewards)
- Hands on learning/ experimental learning
- Climate change cross curriculum planning for every age
- Save energy
- Reusable lunch boxes and drinks bottles only
- Recycling stations for all year groups
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle
- No power hours
- Teach outdoors

This alone is not enough, but it is a start. Children like challenges and competition. Children love to brag to their parents, and parents like to get on board if there is something to gain from it. So why not offer rewards, like house-points. Creating a global citizen reward system, where everyone gets scored on their participation, resulting in more playtime, school discos and school trips. It is not a case of learning the topic for one term; this would not work. It needs to be a whole school approached used daily and outside of school too.

Promoting climate change in education can look like, challenge young minds with critical thinking and problem solving, for example, instead of recycling because we are told too, what else can we do to reduce our recycling altogether? Children can be taught about shopping and how to shop for items with no packaging. Looking at ingredients lists to ensure the products are from substantiable sources and not used to destroy our forests and animals' homes. There will be an introduction to a new GCSE class throughout schools called "Natural history." In hope to educate secondary children about real life environmental and sustainable issues of the world, (Education, 2022). This is a fantastic approach to the "Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy." Younger children can continue to learn through climate literacy, stem activities using the greenhouse theory and using endangered animals in numeracy. Why not start creative writing by designing letters to the government? Children could even write letters to big industries begging for less packaging waste. Lesson planning can be fun, interesting to each age group and can be extremely informative, having an overall positive influence over children's decisions, to be ethically informed citizens of the world.



There is only so much an education setting can provide, when the bell rings children leave, go home, and follow on from their parents' lead. They will continue to recycle, spend hours in Tesco reading for nasty ingredients and use less waste. Am I right? Unfortunately, I am not. However, education can only have an impact if parents step up and follow from example. It may feel that some days all that children learn falls straight out the window. WHY? Because parents are uneducated or not bothered. How can one child make a difference without good role models to help them do their bit?

WE ARE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE

We need to pull together. Educators and parents, governors. To work in partnership to provide **A new generation with a new education** that does not end at 3pm.

SIGN UP [HERE](#) and let us get as many signatures as we can 😊

Let us see mandatory education procedures put into place for every school so every child can get a real-life education.

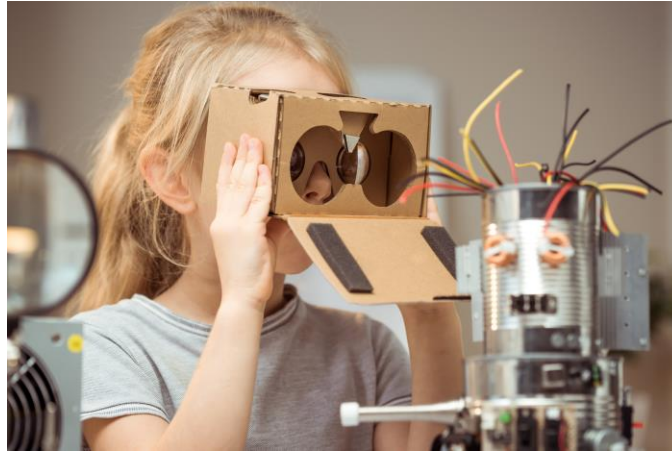
IT IS THE CHILDREN'S PROBLEM NOW.



Blog 3

Never underestimate children's imagination

Discuss the merits or shortcomings of design thinking to discuss the contemporary challenges in education.



Can you remember those good old days when a cardboard box was anything you can imagine? A TV, a spaceship, a boat, and a good old-fashioned playhouse. Then as you get older you come to realize this is just a cardboard box. Imagination is a massive tool and if you put your mind to it, you can really get some out of the box ideas, which not only can create some amazing businesses, toys, medicines, and other products but it can be an effective weapon in design thinking.

In a world like today where we struggle with many contemporary challenges, would design thinking be a beneficial tool to help tackle some of the wicked problems in the world, poverty? Climate change or poor physical inactivity. Surely there would be some over the top ideas we can produce, why not bring design thinking to education? My thoughts, children have the biggest imagination, if a cardboard box can be a television, then what ideas can they produce to help tackle climate change? It would be interesting, right? We as adults do take children's imagination for granted. Are their ideas that crazy? If we stop and think about it and absorb some of their points, there could be some of the best design thinking ideas out there, hello profitable income.

Designed thinking is a highly imaginative problem-solving process which many businesses use to produce radical ideas to present to the people of the world, (Hogarty et al., 2021). Design thinking is also known to be “Human centered” as it uses real life data and evidence to understand exactly how people engage with the products. Using methods like observation and

design thinking experts can help to improve, simplify, and recreate their products to suit the customer, (Hogarty et al., 2021). There are 6 key parts to their methods: Empathize, define, ideate, prototype and test, each part plays a vital role gathering knowledge, information and understanding to the problem ahead, after that they brainstorm ideas and with time these ideas are turned into a reality. (UWTSD, 2020).

The Merits of design thinking education

While researching design-thinking it is clear to see it is not an effortless process, it takes time. But it does have many benefits which could be successful in an education setting. It can be used as a whole class program; with the right planning and knowledge delivered by the teachers, the children can have their say. Those children with the top input can be put together as the designated design thinkers of their school. They can then represent their setting alongside many others working in partnership with top companies that use design thinking like IDEO, imagine what can be achieved. What are the merits of design thinking in education?

- Challenging (children love a challenge)
- Use of problem-solving skills
- Brainstorming skills
- To develop insights and understandings to find solutions
- Linear and non- linear thinking skills
- Team building, working together
- Knowledge and skills to generate and visualize ideas
- Express themselves
- Designing prototypes
- Learn to use reflection

Not only will children of all ages work towards these beneficial skills but they are gaining so much knowledge of real-world business skills and those who succeed in this path could see a bright future. They could be the next designer of many brands who have already used design thinking to evolve their business-like Netflix, uber eats and Airbnb, (Han, 2022).

Although the merits completely sell it for me, there are some shortcomings to using design thinking in an education setting, those of which are time and limited resources. Designing, researching, collecting data, and testing real users takes real time, (Tsoi, 2021). However, I do

not feel these reasons are not enough to put a stop to this exciting tool altogether. There is always a time to include some fun exciting new ways of learning, not only to help children think outside of the box to be enterprising creative individuals but to learn fundamental life skills that could help challenge some of the contemporary challenges we face today. Children may have the answers we need.

Let us spread awareness to all educational settings, any age, any country and get some of the most imaginative design thinkers together and see what can be achieved.

Together is better

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