



What is the
point of
school?

TAKE IT FURTHER:

THINK

What curiosity questions can you ask?

e.g. When and why was school invented? What was the original purpose of school? Does learning only happen in school? Do we need school for learning? What do you think works and doesn't work about learning in school? What are the best and worst parts about school?

FEEL

How might different people feel about this?

e.g. When you think about school, how do you feel? How has it felt to be learning from home? What do you miss about school? What have you enjoyed whilst learning from home? Do you think school helps support emotional development? Why? Why not?

CONNECT

What links can you start to make?

e.g. What are some of the similarities of school systems across the world? What is the relationship between learning and local contexts? Should there be more of a link between our schools and the communities in which we live? How does and doesn't school help prepare young people for the world we're living in?

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Activity ideas:

1. During this period of 'hibernation' schools across the world have been closed and young people asked to learn from home. This will have been a very different experience of learning for you with many opportunities and many challenges. Thinking about your own experiences, take a piece of paper and make two columns and write down your reflections in each column (or draw pictures to represent each idea) – one column for **positive experiences** and one for **negative experiences**.
2. What would your **dream school** look like? If you could design a school to be built, designed and run in whatever way you imagine, what would it look like? Take a big piece of paper and draw a map of your dream school, including notes on what you would teach, what learning would look like, what the buildings and campus would look like and anything else you would include. Be creative to really think about what your dream school would be.
3. Why was school invented? How has school changed over time? Do you think that what you learn in school is relevant to what is happening in the world? These are big yet important questions to ask and understand to help reflect on what school is offering to our communities. Take a quick look at some inspiring schools across the world that show different ideas of what school can look like: [Innovative schools across the world](#)
4. Is school fair? There are of course amazing things that happen in schools across the world – great learning, inspiring teachers, friendships and community, opportunities for growth. Yet there are also many challenges and many things that are not so positive for children or teachers and many parts of our school systems that are not fair. Take a look at this thought-provoking video from Prince Ea about school and think about and discuss your thoughts and reflections afterwards: [What is school for?](#)

**USE THE [EXPLORER'S GUIDE](#) TO HELP YOU*

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RESOURCES:



THINGS TO READ




[What's the point of school?](#)

(Article | *BBC News*)

[Innovative schools around the world](#)

(Images & Article | *Guardian*)



THINGS TO WATCH



[What's Education for?](#)

(3 minute video | *The School of Life*)

[Bring on the learning revolution](#)

(17 minute video | *Ted Talks – Ken Robinson*)



THINGS TO LISTEN TO



[Why you should take time to play](#)

(Podcast series | *Ted Radio*)

[The 21st Century curriculum](#)

(29 minute podcast | *Varaidzo – BBC Sounds*)



THINGS TO DO



[Explore our alternative learning programme](#)

(Inquiries and activities | *ThoughtBox*)

[Meet our Education changemakers](#)

([Mervyn Bedford](#) | [Rachel Musson](#) | [Malcolm Parlett](#))



THINGS TO INSPIRE



[Explore our Equality & Justice topic](#)

(A home-learning topic for 5-18 year olds | *ThoughtBox*)

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