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## Ideas Can Change the World

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**ABSTRACT** In this time of climate change, many young children dream about finding ways to save the planet. The curriculum teaches about the problems – and about the small changes that can be made to slow down global warming. But children need more skills for the jobs of the future and to be taught how to bring their amazing ideas to life.

Many children – at the ages of around six to eight – come up with brilliant ideas that could – if given the chance – change the world. They go into school hoping to make that dream a reality. They get older and they learn in school how to make little changes that make a difference: reducing, reusing and recycling. They make posters to raise awareness. But as they approach the end of primary school, their own ideas are still just lurking in the back of their mind. This is because all they are learning to do is things everyone should be doing. The little changes. The small alterations. But that's not what they want to do. They want to make the big changes. Huge alterations. They are taught that other ideas like theirs have helped dramatically in this period of climate change, but not how to turn their own ideas into a reality.

The points that the curriculum is focusing on are the everyday things each of us should do to make a difference. But what about the hundreds of jobs that will come up in the 10 or 20 years ahead? Jobs in everything from natural power sources, like solar energy and wind turbines, to electric cars, green spaces and green buildings. Jobs that will need ideas.

One way of being educated about climate change would be to have a school subject based entirely on it – starting in primary school and going all the way through secondary. It would be full of projects where we could take an idea and learn how to make it a reality – a look through to what it will really be like in the future. This would help incredibly in learning about what we really need to do to make the world a better place again.

Imagine a child who, at six years old, had an idea about a fuelless car that ran on something eco-friendly (using magnetism or solar power). If climate

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change was taught as its own subject, then over the years they could study the ways to make it a reality. In their later lives, well, who knows – they could even bring it to life. They would have achieved the thing they had dreamed of since they were six. This is why having climate change as a school subject would be so incredibly beneficial at this time. Because this is what nearly everyone in our generation wants to do. We want to know how to change the world.

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