

School concept turned upside down to cope with robots taking jobs

Bruce Mcdougall, The Daily Telegraph

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A CLASSROOM revolution is turning schools upside down with [rote learning out](#) in favour of feelings and students not expected to attend in person.

Educators and business leaders are heading a campaign to change the direction of teaching as more than [40 per cent of all jobs are expected to become automated](#) over the next two decades.

“We should be teaching values, ethics, creativity and soft skills — the things that robots and artificial intelligence will not be able to do well,” former Victorian deputy secretary of education Dr Dahle Suggett said.



A robot designed to work in a hospital.



Robots will also be working in traditionally lower-tech industries such as agriculture. Dr Suggett led a recent workshop on the future of education at the University of Sydney's Policy Lab.

Education futurists believe schools can be a concept rather than a physical space, with learning happening through networks, in groups and “across geographies” at times that suit students, teachers and parents.

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They say the days when children needed to memorise formulas or recite the rivers of NSW are gone as the content-driven learning regimens no longer equip children for - post-school study or digital age jobs.

[For the workforce of tomorrow](#) they say students will need advanced skills in interpersonal, communication, collaboration and problem- solving as well as ability in creative and critical thinking.

University of Canberra's professor Tom Lowrie said content alone would not equip students for the future.

“Some of the content (in school curriculums) may be irrelevant before children leave kindergarten,” he said.



STEM program students at Campbelltown Performing Arts High School, Angelle Gatdula, Kristen Cottrell, and Jayden Grogan. Picture: Jonathan Ng
University of Sydney's professor Michael Anderson said educators were putting the onus on students to find solutions to problems rather than giving them the answers.

Global corporates such as Samsung are helping to find better ways to give students skills for the future. The company's Bright Spot learning hub investigates how best to teach STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects.

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Campbelltown School of Performing Arts is among those forging ahead with its STEM program using all the disciplines. Principal Stacey Quince said: “The students enjoy the opportunity to think outside the square.”