

FREE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

THE FUTURE READY FAMILY GUIDE

A practical guide for Parents



What every parent needs to know about preparing their child for the world ahead

Every parent sends their child to school with a hope.

A hope that their child will find their way. That they'll discover what they're good at, build friendships that last, and eventually step into the world — confident, capable, and ready for whatever comes next.

But the world they'll step into is changing faster than any generation before them has faced. The question that more and more parents are quietly asking is this: Is school keeping up?

This guide is designed to help you explore that question — not with alarm, but with curiosity and purpose. Because the most powerful thing you can do for your child isn't to have all the answers. It's to ask the right questions.



The world your child is growing into

The pace of change in the world of work is unlike anything we've seen before. Artificial intelligence isn't a future event — it is already reshaping industries, redefining roles, and raising entirely new questions about what it means to be skilled and employable.

170 MILLION

new jobs are projected to be created globally by 2030 — but 92 million existing roles will be displaced.

(World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2025)

That's not a reason for panic. It's a reason for preparation. Because alongside the disruption, there is profound opportunity — for young people who have been equipped with the right capabilities.

“Creativity, contextual reasoning and ethical judgement are capabilities that no algorithm can fully replicate.”

— World Economic Forum

The WEF's research is clear: the skills that will matter most in the AI era are not purely technical. They are deeply human.



39%

of **key job skills** are expected to change by 2030. Employers rank creative thinking, resilience, adaptability and curiosity among the fastest-rising capabilities required.

(WEF, Future of Jobs Report 2025)

The OECD echoes this in its Learning Compass 2030 — a global education framework built around student agency, well-being, and transformative competencies: the ability to create new value, reconcile tensions and dilemmas, and take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

In short, the world doesn't just need young people who know things. It needs young people who can think, adapt, collaborate, and lead.

What does 'Future Ready' actually mean?

Future Ready isn't a buzzword. It describes a set of human capabilities that research consistently identifies as essential for young people to thrive — in work, in learning, and in life.

These capabilities go beyond subject knowledge. They include:

Critical & Analytical Thinking

The ability to examine information, question assumptions, and reason through complex problems — rated by employers as the single most sought-after skill.

Creativity & Innovation

Generating original ideas, approaching challenges from new angles, and contributing to solutions that don't yet exist.

Collaboration

Working effectively with others — across differences, disciplines, and distances — toward shared goals.

Adaptability & Resilience

Navigating change, recovering from setbacks, and continuing to grow in the face of uncertainty.

Curiosity & Lifelong Learning

The intrinsic drive to keep learning — not because you have to, but because you want to.

AI Literacy & Human-AI Collaboration

Understanding how AI works, where it helps, and where human judgement remains irreplaceable.

Self-Awareness & Strengths

Knowing who you are, what you're good at, and how to contribute your best to the world.

What forward-thinking schools are doing differently

Some schools are already leading this change. And the research emerging from Australia and around the world is showing us what that looks like.

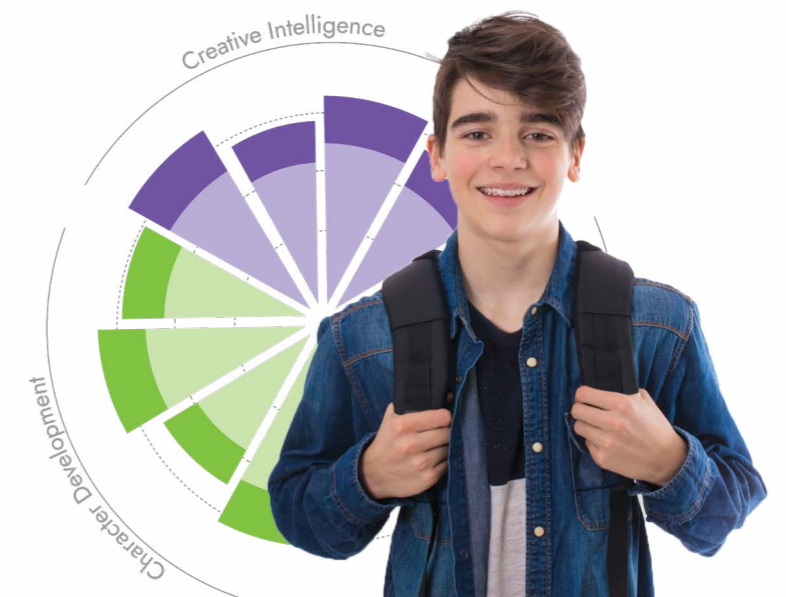
Professor Sandra Milligan, Executive Director of Melbourne Assessment at the University of Melbourne, has spent years working with pioneering schools to answer a fundamental question: how do we assess and recognise capabilities that traditional school reports simply don't capture?

"A learner profile is a reporting approach that tries to capture, in a useful utilitarian way, the breadth of things that students know and can do." — Professor Sandra Milligan, University of Melbourne

Professor Milligan's New Metrics research-practice partnership works with schools across Australia to develop Learner Profiles — richer, more meaningful records of student achievement that go beyond subject grades to recognise a young person's capabilities in areas like critical thinking, communication, collaboration, active citizenship, and agency in learning.

These profiles are designed to complement — not replace — existing measures like NAPLAN and the ATAR. They give students, parents, teachers, and future employers a fuller picture of what a young person truly knows and can do.

The schools participating in this work are asking a powerful question: what if we measured what we actually value, instead of only valuing what we can easily measure?



This is the shift that Future Ready learning represents. Not abandoning knowledge and rigour — but expanding what we recognise as success.

10 Questions to ask your child's school

You don't need to be an education expert to be an advocate for your child. You just need to be curious — and willing to ask. The following questions are designed to open a genuine conversation with your school about Future Ready learning.

There are no trick questions here. The best schools will welcome them.

1	How is the school preparing students for careers that don't yet exist?
2	How are creativity and innovation measured and developed?
3	How are students taught to work alongside AI rather than compete against it?
4	How does the school develop adaptability and resilience?
5	How do students learn to solve real-world problems?
6	How is curiosity encouraged rather than compliance?
7	How are collaboration skills developed?
8	How are students taught to become lifelong learners?
9	How does the school help students identify their strengths?
10	How does the school know its graduates are Future Ready?

When you ask these questions, listen for specificity. 'We develop the whole child' is a value, not an answer. What you're looking for is evidence — examples of how the school actually designs, teaches and measures these capabilities in practice.

What you can do at home

Schools cannot do this alone. The most Future Ready young people are typically those whose families reinforce these capabilities at home — not through structured programmes, but through the texture of daily life.

A few of the most powerful things you can do:

- Ask your child what they think** — not just what they know. Curiosity starts with questions, not answers.
- Let them struggle productively.** Resilience is built through challenge, not by removing it.
- Talk about AI openly and honestly.** Help them see it as a tool to work with, not a threat to fear.
- Celebrate** effort, creativity, growth and even mistakes (FAIL: First Attempt In Learning)— not just grades.
- Model lifelong learning yourself.** Let them see you curious, uncertain, and still learning.



Further Reading

If you'd like to explore these ideas further, the following resources offer research and perspective from leading organisations at the intersection of education, work, and the future.

- **World Economic Forum — Future of Jobs Report 2025**
[weforum.org/reports/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025](https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025)
- **OECD Learning Compass 2030**
oecd.org/en/topics/future-of-education-and-skills.html
- **University of Melbourne — Melbourne Assessment (New Metrics)**
education.unimelb.edu.au/melbourne-assessment/new-metrics
- **McKinsey — Future of Work Insights**
mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work
- **TED Talk — Do Schools Kill Creativity? (Ken Robinson)**
[ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_do_schools_kill_creativity](https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_do_schools_kill_creativity)



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HAVE YOUR SAY

What does an education worth having look like in today's world? Share your perspective in our national Parent Insight Study and help uncover what Australian parents want most for their children's future.