

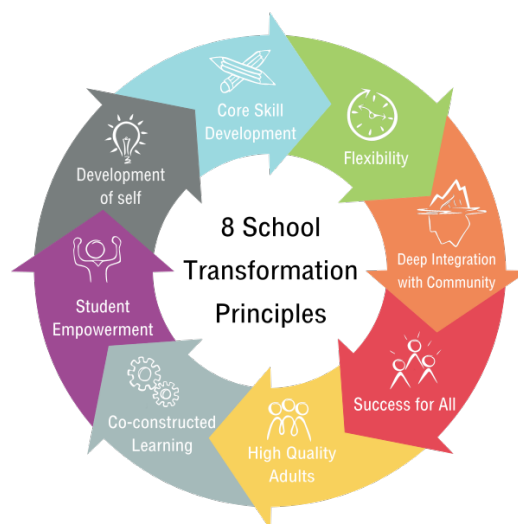
# FUTURE SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

## EIGHT PRINCIPLES OF SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION

The FSA is an Alliance of innovative educational leaders collaborating to explore, evolve, and transform their school communities so that all learners are enabled to explore their holistic potential.

FSA Member School Leaders and Convenors support the development of Future Schools where learning environments;

- Are flexible and adapt quickly to the needs of young people.
- Have deep, genuine, ongoing and seamless integration with family and broader communities.
- Actively support success for all young people.
- Maximise the benefit of high-quality adults in the lives of young people.
- Encourage co-constructed learning opportunities for all learning community members.
- Empower all members of the learning community.
- Encourage the exploration and development of self.
- Develop core skills to equip young people for the exponential age



In developing the Eight Principles for School Transformation the FSA reached out to 30 respected educators and thought leaders, 15 from within Australia and 15 from around the world. They were asked one simple question 'If we were designing an education system that would genuinely prepare students for the future what would be the non-negotiables?' The responses are presented in the order of frequency of response.

**Flexibility** – This was overwhelmingly regarded as the most critical factor for school transformation. This means minimising the impact of regulatory and self-imposed constraints which hinder student, teacher, parent and school autonomy and agency. Only structures which add value to and deepen the individual and group educational experience are legitimate, all else should be questioned.

**Deep Integration with Community** – Schools should be relationship-based networks that extend far beyond the physical campus with deep, genuine, ongoing and seamless integration with family, businesses, community organisations, universities and into the global community. There are opportunities for individuals and groups to make genuine contributions to the community as well as benefiting from integrated vocational training, and meaningful projects with businesses and other community organisations.

**Success for all** – This involves individually negotiating learning paths for all students and staff incorporating a growth mind-set within a deeply inclusive culture which celebrates difference and embeds respect for all. Programs are based on developing strengths with broad measures of success, enabling fair and equal participation for all.

**High Quality Adults** - Wise, caring, adventurous, creative and highly skilled adults significantly enhance student learning and self-development. Schools should seek to maximise student exposure to such adults and mentors through a range of well compensated paid and unpaid opportunities. Ongoing negotiated personal development should be embedded in their daily program, with staff able to move seamlessly into, and out of the profession to maintain relevance, currency and passion.

**Co-constructed Learning** - Students and staff share the responsibility for co-constructing engaging learning journeys that are relevant to the individual learner and ideally contribute something of value to the broader community. This can incorporate authentic learning products, problem based learning, play based learning, hyper-specialisation and entrepreneurial activities.

**Student Empowerment** - As students mature they are supported to take increasing control and responsibility for their education and lives, including contributing to the daily operation and direction of the school.

**Development of Self** - By exploring personal values and their place in community, students develop wisdom – wisdom to learn how to learn, to become a critical questioner, to assess and take appropriate risks and to develop empathy.

**Core Skill Development** - Confident written, spoken and digital communication skills alongside established numeracy and scientific understanding empowers students to make informed choices in life and to be active contributors to their community.