Social Mobility: Chance or Choice? Born to Fail?

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Definitions

Social Mobility is achieving positive change in socio-economic status, and more widely, building better futures for all, in terms of wellbeing, health, and engagement with all that life has to offer.

To support Social Mobility, we must provide chances and choices that:

not determined by class, but by heritage, location and self-efficacy. are respectful of individuals

are non-judgemental

not defined by movement between classes or location

provide opportunities for everyone to be included, and to belong.

prepare the way for everyone to succeed in life, in education, health, employment and housing

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Mutuality

Mutuality happens when, instead of us thinking about helping children escape the constraints of their class and making judgements about what people from disadvantaged communities need to change, we focus on providing equality.

When we do this, everyone in society benefits.

This allows people on to have their voice heard in the conversation about what happens next, to have a role to play, to value their class and background identities, and own their own change.

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What do we need to do over the next twenty years?

1. Continue to develop new approaches to education and public policy, using the principles of mutuality, for the benefit of all regardless of their starting point, to:

Improve foundations for life for all children and young people,

Develop greater engagement with parents and carers, families, and communities that will ensure that all children and young people are supported to access meaningful support, develop their aspirations, and increase their achievement and life prospects.

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What do we need to do over the next twenty years?

2. Provide real chances and choices for all children and young people will light the way for better futures. This can only be done through mutuality. This will lead to greater access, opportunity, success, and happier and more fulfilling future lives.

3. Reconceptualise access to Higher Education to meet the needs of all young (and adult) people to provide greater equality, access, and social and socio-economic outcomes for all.

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What do we need to do over the next twenty years?

4. Support apprenticeships to ensure that they provide maximal choices and opportunities to young people from all aspects of society. Apprenticeships (and all other routes to the workplace and employment) must be supported by increasing applied learning and work-based learning in schools and Further Education settings.

5. Provide real chances and choices to children and young people facing disadvantage that will unlock their talents on a par with their more advantaged peers and provide them with opportunities to build future lives as productive and secure adults.

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What do we need to do over the next twenty years?

6. Support educational settings and businesses that embed inclusive and effective leadership in both their vision and their day-to-day actions.

7. Advise policy makers and change-makers to develop a more relevant curriculum and assessment measures for children and young people.

8. Build social inclusion and regard for the future into everything we do.

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What do we need to do over the next twenty years?

Achievement for All encourages and promotes an inclusive approach to education. Inclusion acknowledges the impact of the social environment upon children's abilities to learn and develop.

Achievement for All facilitates diversity and ensures that all needs of children and young people are viewed equitably and met fairly to lay effective foundations for future social mobility.

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References

Blandford, S. (2017) Born to Fail? Social Mobility: A Working Class View. London: John Catt Educational.

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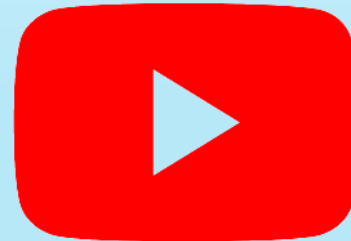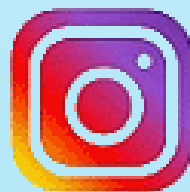
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