Pearson

Creative classrooms tomorrow



> I hope learning helps me to…grow into a well-rounded, curious, and adaptable person, capable of facing challenges and making a positive impact in the world."
>
> – School Student

As we prepare for changes to curriculum and assessment, we asked 400+ secondary creative teachers in England for their views in the Pearson School & College Report 2026.

Here's their perspective on what's ahead:

The 'unknowns' of reform

Like many secondary teachers surveyed, creative subject educators are not yet clear about the benefits of the proposed education reforms following the **Curriculum and Assessment Review**.

Around half **don't know what the forthcoming changes will improve** for students (**53%**) or teachers (**49%**). While significant, this level of uncertainty is actually among the lowest across all subjects.



believe they will have **no impact** on teachers.

However, they're some of the most positive about the potential impact of the upcoming changes...

More than those from any other subject, teachers of creative subjects think the forthcoming changes will improve the following for students:

- Core life skills **(20%)**
- Mental health **(9%)**
- Responsible citizenship **(9%)**

8% also believe the proposed reforms could **improve accessibility for SEND students.**

When it comes to benefits for teachers, **1 in 10** creative subject teachers expect the upcoming changes to improve:

- **Assessments that better reflect the curriculum** (**3 pp** above the secondary teacher average)
- **Clearer qualification pathways** (**5 pp** above the secondary average)

AI usage in creative classrooms

Educators of creative subjects are actively adopting and embedding advancing technologies such as AI.

They're also the most optimistic about where AI could be used more.

10% do not use AI in their role

43% use AI to support teaching and learning

51% say it actively saves them time

The top three areas where creative subject teachers say that AI could be utilised more for teaching and learning:



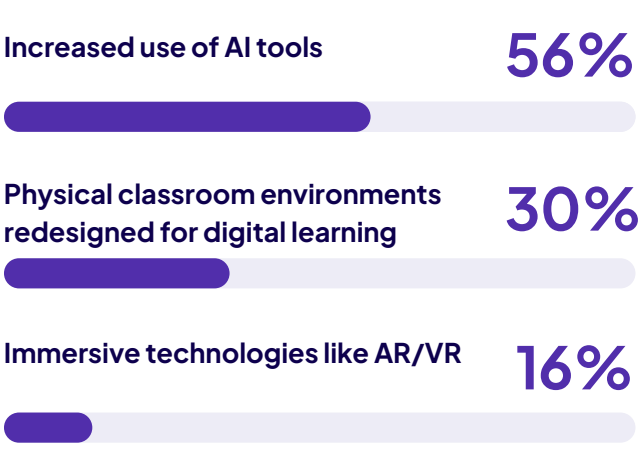
To drive forward change in this area, creative teachers identified a number of things that could assist them in supporting students to effectively use AI for learning:



The 2031 classroom

When looking five years ahead, they anticipate physical and technological evolution in creative spaces.

Imagining classrooms in 2031, creative subject teachers expect to see:



Readying for the future

Creative teachers feel strongly about their ability to prepare students for life in the classroom and beyond.

"I feel I am currently preparing my students to…"

- **70%** Be well-rounded individuals
- **60%** Be ready for further study or training
- **43%** Love learning

In addition,

27% feel they're preparing students to have the digital skills they need.

→ **10 pp** above the secondary average.

*Including teachers of Art & Design, Design & Technology, and Performing Arts (Music, Dance, Drama).

Want to know more?

Explore secondary creative teachers' views on the classroom today and find out more about how we're helping schools and colleges navigate curriculum and assessment reform with confidence.

Discover what 50,000+ educators, students and sector representatives think about education today and its future in the Pearson School & College Report.

About the research

Surveys of primary and secondary classroom teachers, middle leaders, school leaders and headteachers working in schools in England were conducted by Teacher Tapp between 9 January 2026 and 28 January 2026. Depending on the question, there were between 1,538 and 9,611 respondents. Results were weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics.