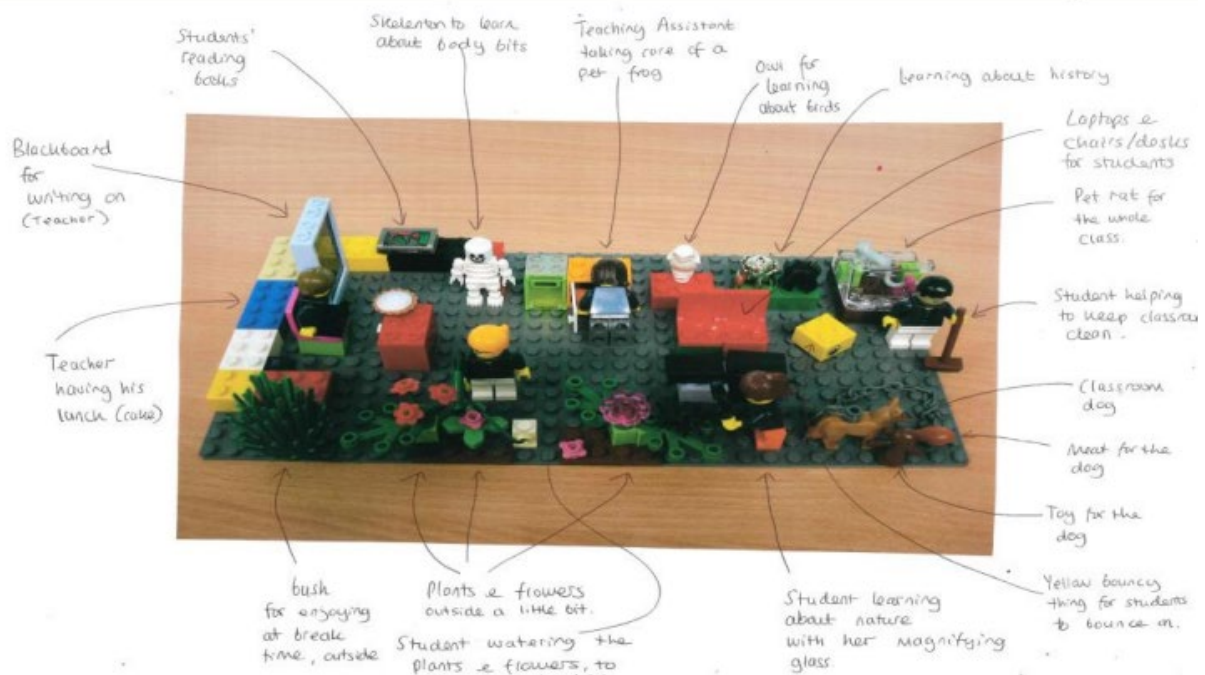


This tool (Williams and Hanke, 2007; Williams et al, 2007; and Kangas, 2010) can be used to gain an insight into which features of the school (people, environment, lessons etc) young people would like to change and why. This activity can be undertaken using Lego, play equipment and/or drawing. There is a tutorial video for the Ideal self at [Drawing The Ideal Self](#) alongside a manual with instructions and questions. This process was later developed by Faye Morgan-Rose in 2014.



Equipment

- Lego® Build to Express Kit 45110 (available from Lego® Education for approx £40). You can use any Lego available to you.
- Lego® minifigure accessories and items.
- Plain white A4 Paper
- Lined paper and black pen for making notes.
- Smart phone/tablet/camera to photograph the models.

Instructions

Part 1: Building the Dream School

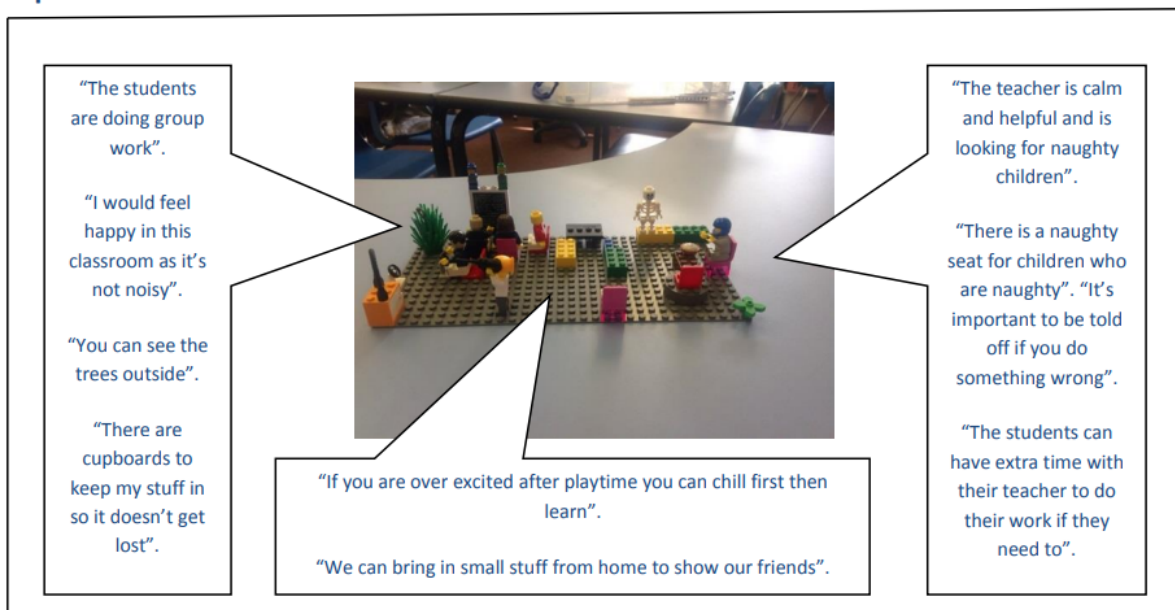
Throughout the task, the child builds the model, and you write the labels. This ensures the young person focuses on the building of their model and that the labels are recorded accurately. As the young person makes their model and places items onto the base board, ask them questions such as “what’s that?”, “what’s happening here?” and “why is that important?” Write down their answers onto the plain paper. When the young person is happy with their model, photograph it.

Ask the young person 9 questions and record their answers onto lined paper.

1. What are the most important things in this classroom?
2. What is your favourite thing in this classroom?
3. If you were to walk into this classroom, how would you feel?
4. If this classroom has rules, what would they be?
5. What are the students doing?
6. Tell me three things about the students.
7. What are the adults doing?
8. Tell me three things about the adults.
9. What happens at break time for the students of this classroom?

Part 2: You can repeat this process for the 'non-ideal' school if you have the time and the young person is able to hold their attention.

Part 3: Through discussion, ensure you have understood what the young person has expressed through this work. Clarify what you feel they have said in terms of what they feel they would not like in their school. Discuss who can view the photographs and if possible, give them a copy of the photographs to take away.



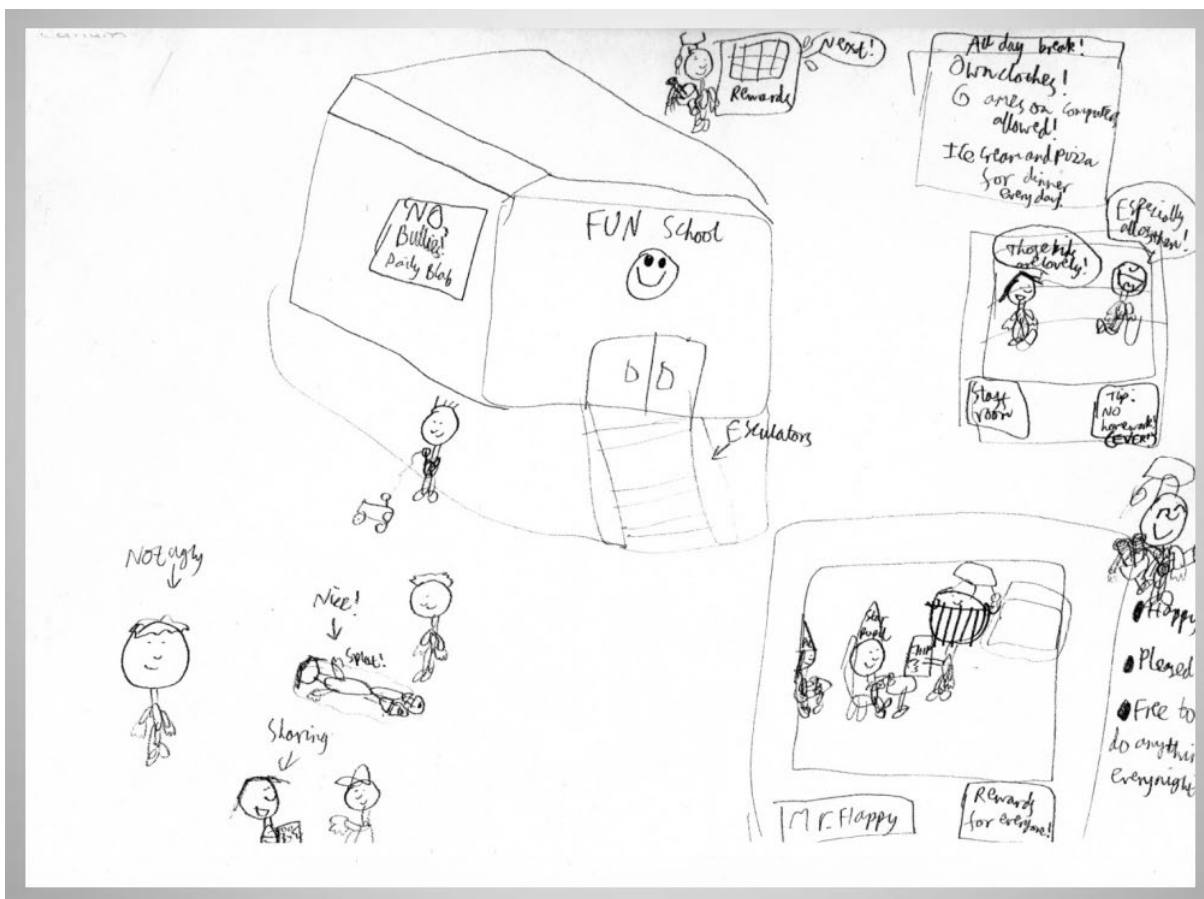
Adapted from Faye Morgan-Rose, 2014.

You can also complete this activity as a drawing exercise.

The Drawing the Ideal School technique has been adapted from an approach developed by Moran (2001).

- Equipment needed: a black pen and two sheets of plain A4 sized paper.
- Allow about an hour to complete the activity.
- Explain to the pupil that you are going to be doing the writing today, acting as scribe. This is to take the pressure off the pupil and keep the process moving.

- The pupil is asked to make quick drawings or sketches (rather than detailed drawings). Reassure the pupil that it doesn't matter if an error is made.
- It is important to record exactly what the pupil says using their own words. The child might come up with ideas and things that are not possible but that is fine because drawings and comments tell us how they review school.
- If the pupil is overly anxious about drawing, either model stick people drawings first or just record the pupil's verbal responses.
- Allow time for the pupil to process the requests – repeat/reword/simplify the questions if not understood.
- Provide reassurance that there are no right or wrong answers or responses.
- Provide encouragement and praise for the pupil's involvement with the activity.
- Be sensitive about sharing the drawings with others, ask the child's permission and ensure that other adults understand that the child has trusted you in revealing such views, which must be respected.
- Talk to other colleagues about planning any follow-up work that might be indicated.
- Consider: type of school, the adults, the children, the classrooms, the playground, the outside areas, the child themselves.
- You can also complete this exercise with the 'non-ideal' school.



Adapted from Dudley EPS