

Michael Pain: Re-engaging with our purpose; building our vision for children & young people

“A truly inspiring, challenging, thought-provoking, & game-changing input.”

Michael Pain is a speaker, researcher, education thought-leader, and adviser to schools and academy trusts across the country. His passion for strong and purposeful education leadership and vision has seen him establish both the annual national early headship conference (since 2015) and four regional networks for MAT CEOs.

Michael writes and speaks regularly on the purpose of education, the legacy we wish to leave to children, and the role of vision in creating schools where children and young people thrive and are well prepared for an ever-changing world.



Michael encourages leaders, teachers, trustees and governors to look to their context - listening more intently to children, young people and their families and considering the latest research and thinking around the challenges that today's young people face in their day to day lives. He talks about the erosion of childhood and how so much of what we are doing as an education system flies in the face of what we know about children's healthy development and happiness – the foundation of their success. Indeed, he encourages us to challenge the consensus thinking around what we mean by successful outcomes for children and young people.

Michael also inspires delegates to undertake 'futures thinking', thinking less about what today's politicians believe to be important and more about how we prepare children as far as we can for a future world that none of us fully understand or recognise yet. Drawing on research, the views of employers and the concerns of young adults themselves,

Michael encourages us to think outside the box and consider our real legacy to children and young people.

Michael's input includes:

- An overview of the challenges that children face in the modern world
- The importance of childhood experiences and how we can help to preserve it in the face of harmful policies, practices and social trends.
- Futures thinking, anticipating how the world is changing and the skills and characteristics children need to thrive in their future lives
- An opportunity to reevaluate our definition of success and to crystallise what we are really trying to achieve for children and young people
- A call to develop 'pledges' to children and young people that protect the essence of childhood, encourage healthy development, and help children to develop the skills and characteristics needed to thrive.

“Thank you for delivering to our ‘LeadLincs’ aspiring primary Headteachers on vision for leadership. The whole group was gripped and inspired by your session. Feedback from participants included “It was absolutely brilliant and such an inspirational start to the programme”, and from another “I just wanted to say thank you for today. I can safely say I have never come away from a ‘course’ so inspired and motivated”. It was a fantastic session to motivate a commitment to leading in education, and inspiring a passion for ambition for all children. Thank you.”

Helen Barker, Kyra Teaching School Alliance

Access Michael's bio, blogs & writing at: <http://www.forumeducation.org/about-us/michael-pain/>

See Michael's twitter account: @michaelpain

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