Design thinking with pre-service and in-service teachers: Collaboration to reimagine STEAM in the classroom

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Introduction
Design Minds professional development workshops assist in-service and pre-service teachers gain an understanding of the tools and processes for utilising design thinking to improve student engagement in the STEM/STEAM classroom.

The workshops take participants through scaffolded exercises using the three Design Minds phases of ‘inquire’, ‘ideate’ and ‘implement’. Through hands-on team activities, visual thinking and prototyping, teachers apply design thinking to generate strategies for innovative interdisciplinary Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum.

In-service teachers: “Design thinking is a great opportunity to give students tasks that they can develop and take ownership of their achievements.”

Pre-service teachers: “We had a primary teacher in our group. It was really good having an actual teacher there with experience to talk to rather than just having a bunch of us pre-service teachers who have just been on prac. You only really bounce off your [ideas while] having an actual teacher there to just talk to. I thought that was really good.”

Aim
This type of professional development provides a unique opportunity for in-service and pre-service teachers to collaborate to strategize for developing interdisciplinary curriculum between learning areas to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths).

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Your Thoughts
Use the post it notes to record your thoughts
What are the benefits for both pre-service and in-service teachers completing professional development together?
What are the benefits of utilising design thinking to reimagine STEAM in the classroom?

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