



# LEARNOVATE

Leading Learning Innovation

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**TECHNOLOGY  
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**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

# Schools/K12: DIALS

Can Assessment be Authentic, Democratic  
and Sustainable through Technology?

*Stage 1*



What do we mean by....



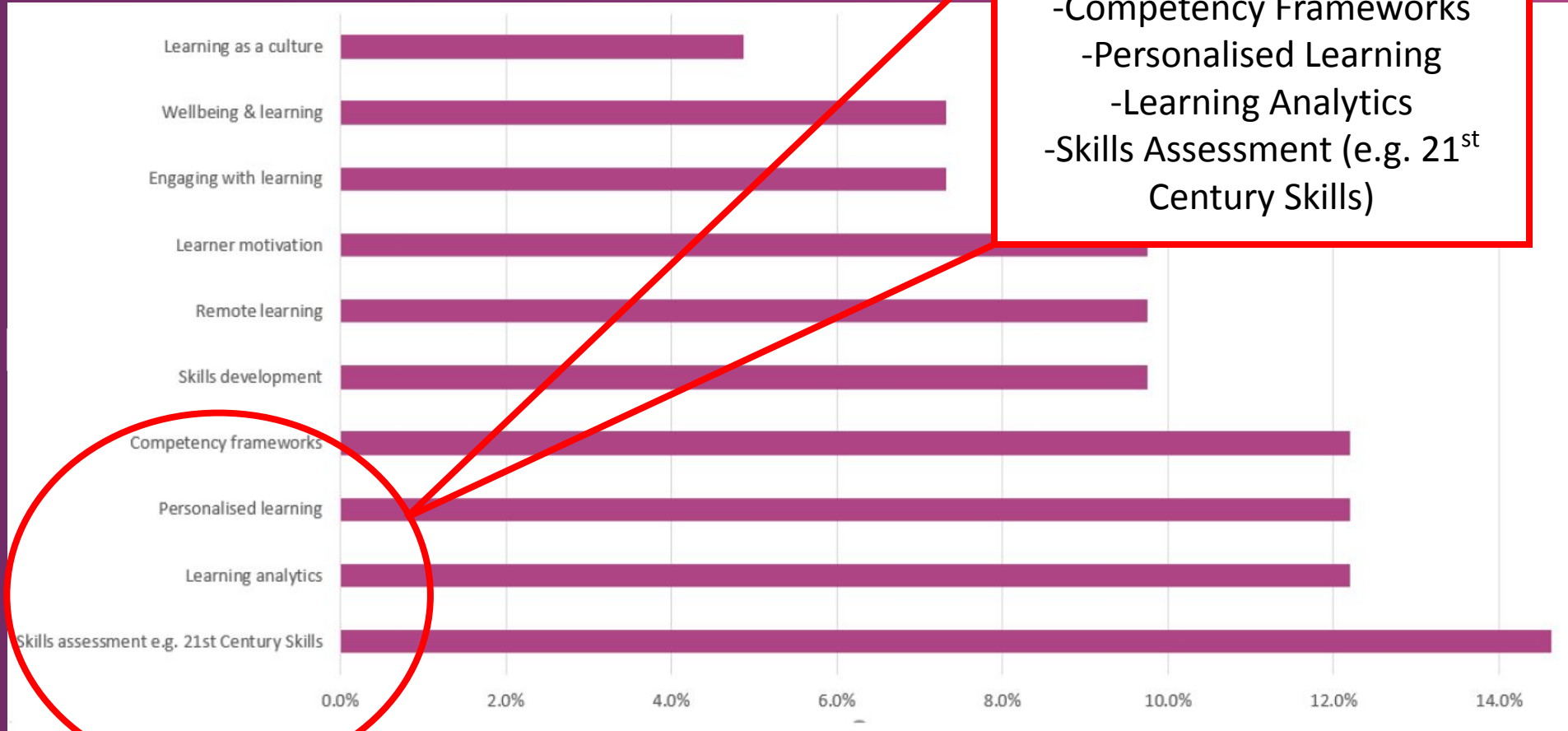
**Authentic  
Assessment**



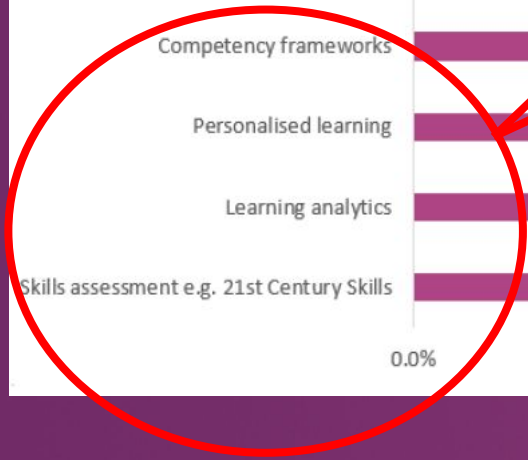
**Democratic  
Assessment**



**Sustainable  
Assessment**



- Competency Frameworks
- Personalised Learning
- Learning Analytics
- Skills Assessment (e.g. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills)



# The Research Questions

1. How do we assess student learning in a way that: a. provides an authentic and engaging learning experience b. measures the correct elements c. promotes positivity, the joy of learning, and student & teacher wellbeing?
2. How can immersive technology, gamification and effective feedback support this?

# What has the literature shown us so far?

- Authentic Assessment Frameworks demonstrate good results in terms of student engagement and motivation but lacking **influence** in the proper learning side (Gulikers et al. 2004) and **challenges** when implementing in class may hinder the process (Schultz et al. 2022, Suurtam, 2004)
- Technologies can be **used by students** as intellectual partners and tools to analyse and interpret their understanding (Herrington and Kervin, 2007). Authenticity comes in different forms: presentations, live performances, projects, exhibitions, portfolios, case studies, reflective journals, interviews, and group work (Sokhanvar, 2021) with e-portfolios being the most prominent in the literature (Nieminen et al. 2022)
- Students become **motivated agents** of their learning process, thereby empowering the student-teacher binary to co-create new authentic ways of learning towards wellbeing (Jones et al. 2021, Vaughn 2020)

What do we mean by....

## **Authentic**

The assessment can effectively evaluate what is supposed to evaluate, both the teacher and learner get exactly what they need from the assessment

## **Democratic**

The assessment is accessible to everyone and is fair to everyone, regardless of learning style preference, cultural factors or systemic biases

## **Sustainable**

The assessment forms a developmental learning pathway which maintains its integrity overtime. Reassessment can occur to measure learning progress.



## Research Question....

### **Authentic**

The assessment can effectively evaluate what is supposed to evaluate, both the teacher and learner get exactly what they need from the assessment

How do we assess student learning in a way that provides an **authentic** and engaging learning experience, measures the correct elements, and promotes positivity, the joy of learning, and student & teacher wellbeing?





## Research Question....

### **Democratic**

The assessment is accessible to everyone and is fair to everyone, regardless of learning style preference, cultural factors or systemic biases

How do we ensure that the **authentic** assessments we create, are **democratic**, in that they are accessible and fair to all who participate in them?



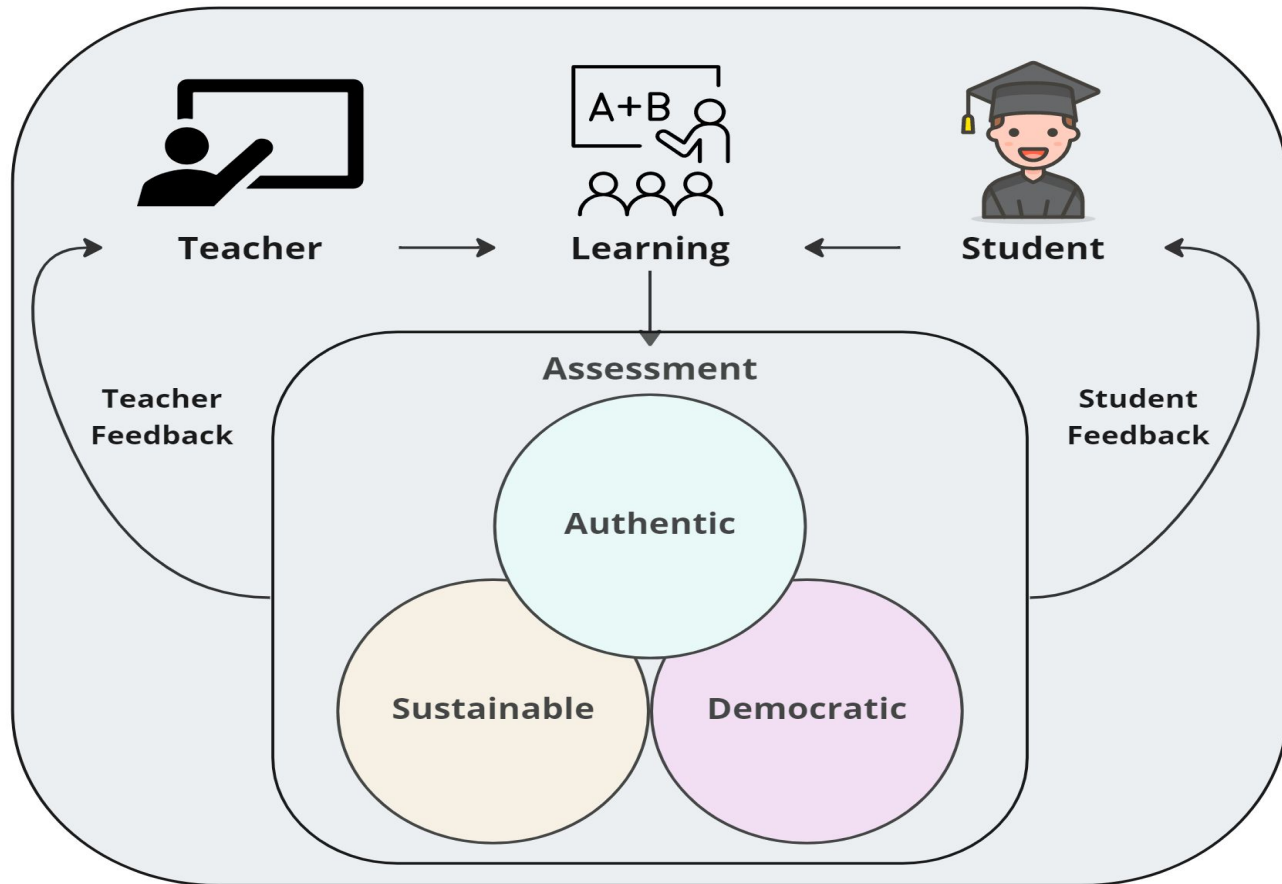
## Research Question....

### **Sustainable**

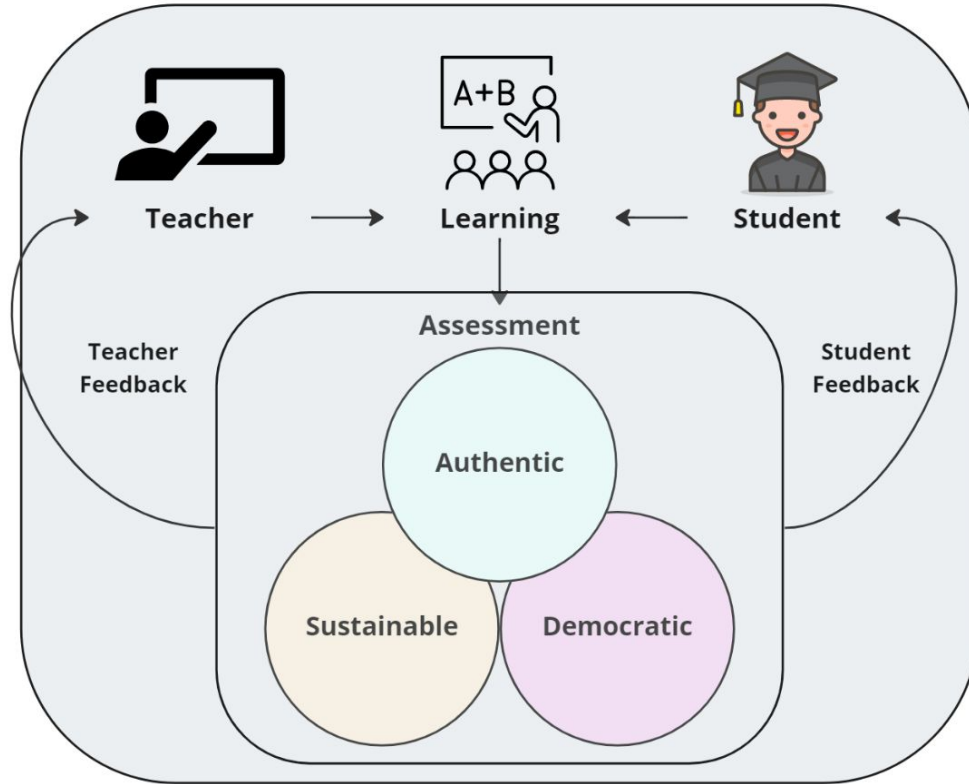
The assessment forms a developmental learning pathway which maintains its integrity overtime.  
Reassessment can occur to measure learning progress.

How do we ensure that the **authentic** and **democratic** assessments we create are **sustainable**, in that we can continue to use them to not only form the learning of the student, but also to have an accurate sense of their true development over time.

# The Ecosystem...



## The Ecosystem...



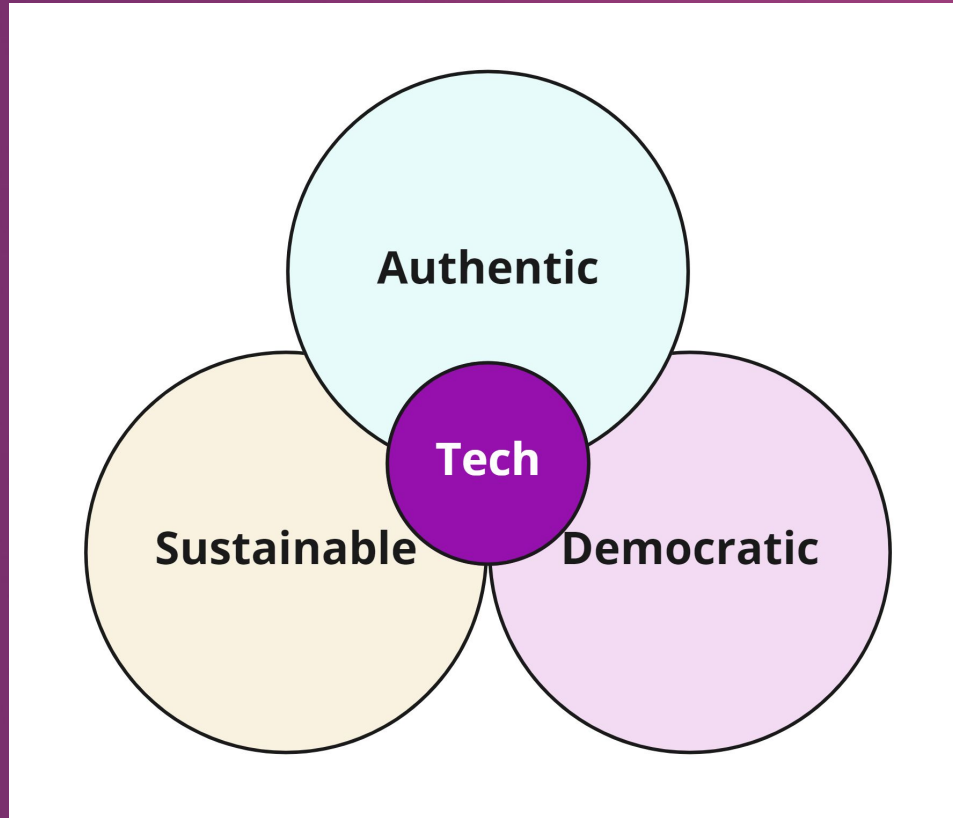
## The Tech Angle...

How can immersive technology, gamification and effective feedback support this?

# Current Frameworks

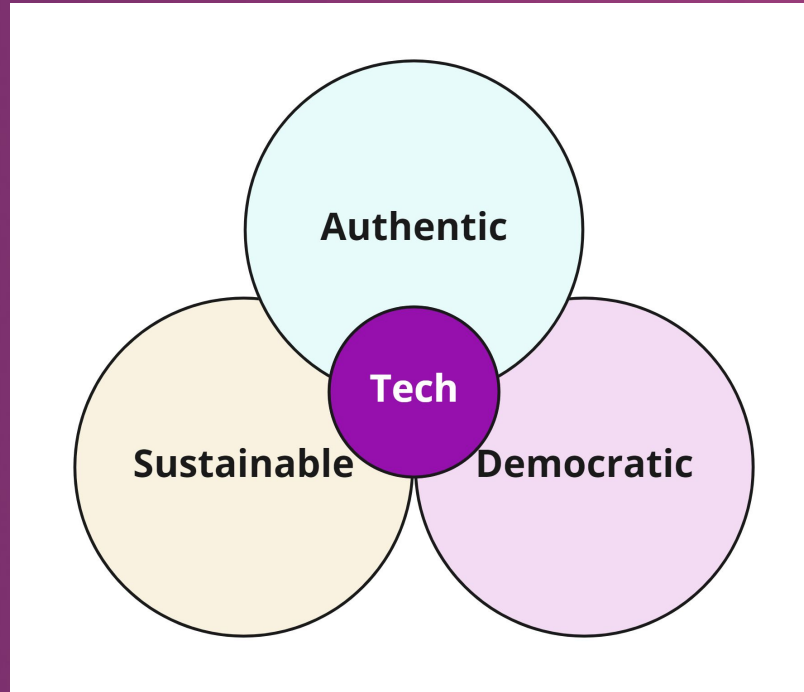
- Own it, Learn it, Share it (Lee & Hannafin, 2016)
- Authentic Assessment for Sustainable Learning (Kearney and Perkins, 2016)
- Authentic Self and peer Assessment for Learning (Kearney and Perkins, 2014)

# DIALS: A New Framework?



# DIALS: A New Framework?

**D**emocratic **I**nclusive **&** **A**uthentic **A**ssessment **for** **L**earning **&** **S**ustainability



# The Next Questions

- How-to validate whether an assessment is authentic
- How-to resolve the mismatch between what school considers "real life" and what students really do
- Consider the potential drawbacks when implementing authentic assessment
- How familiar are teachers with authentic assessment concepts?



# More Questions

- Can assessment in K-12 schools be democratic? How can we use the voice of the student effectively? A sort of truly inclusive, diverse and fair assessment.
- Can we draw an assessment map together with the student in a co-creation process, so they will understand the skills and knowledge acquisition and how can they use them in the near and far future? A sort of a roadmap for success where skills and knowledge can effectively be transferred and tracked.
- Is dialogical pedagogy and the use of student's voice in the assessment process what brings wellbeing and the joy of learning back into the classroom?

# A Couple of Directions to Follow

Direction 1: An external report

An infographic

A conference paper

A white paper for teachers

Direction 2: Stage 2

Interview with teachers AND  
Survey

Jobs-To-Be-Done or similar  
workshop

A bespoke version of our IS  
Solution Workshop



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Thank you