Perspectives on Leadership (1)

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Leadership Case Study of a NZ school

Susan Lovett
University of Canterbury,
Christchurch, New Zealand
Southworth (2009)

- Leadership does make a difference
- Leadership is second only to the effects of teaching on students’ learning
- Leadership focusing on developing students’ learning and strengthening teaching makes that difference
Southworth (2009)

- Learning-centred leaders add their influence to that of teachers

- Leadership is contextualised, distributed and about providing a sense of direction
Leadership effects

• Direct

• Indirect

• Reciprocal
Leadership strategies

- Modelling
- Monitoring
- Dialogue
Excerpts from a principal

Read your excerpt from the school’s newsletter

Note down any indicators of learner-centred leadership

Consider links to 5 LfL principles
Leadership context

- Small rural primary school with 7 teachers
- Includes an experienced teaching deputy principal
- Remaining staff includes:
  - 2 BTs
  - 2 Yr 2 ts
  - 1 overseas trained new to the school and NZ
  - 1 other early career teacher as the assistant principal
Issues

• Write down what challenges you think this staffing mix might have for the school and its leadership.
How are these challenges being addressed?

Making meaning from Southworth’s (2009) framework:

• understanding learning
• leading learning
• leaders’ skills and qualities
• distributed leadership (pp.104-109)