

ARC THOUGHTMEET™ SUMMARY

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ARC is a 5-year global educational movement that advances equity, broad excellence, inclusion, wellbeing, democracy, sustainability and human rights in high quality, professionally run systems, which constitute its eight guiding principles. Framed around these principles, the ARC Thoughtmeet is a virtual bringing together of ideas and minds to create swift, timely, and practical collective solutions to urgent problems. Each ARC Thoughtmeet begins with two ARC Starters by world-renowned thought leaders and a facilitated discussion by Steve Munby, former Chief Executive of England's National College for School Leadership.

ARC Thoughtmeet Starter:

Steve Munby:
'Leading during a
Pandemic'

Leaders are asked to do something they have never done before. What type of leadership is wanted from me?

Every context is different, but here are 3 key messages for servant leadership:

1. Demonstrate optimism and resilience, even if we are struggling inside.
2. Ask for help from others and don't think that we can do this on our own.
3. Trust in our instincts, hold true to our values and make the best choices and decisions that we can, even if we may sometimes get it wrong.



**ARC Thoughtmeet
Starter:**

Andy Hargreaves:

**'Leading through the
Pandemic' & 'Leading
beyond the
Pandemic'**

1. Lead through our shared ARC values: broad excellence, equity, wellbeing, inclusion, human rights, democracy, sustainability, and professionally run systems.
2. Consider how COVID-19 can be a part of learning
3. How can technology support teaching and learning (More & less technology)
4. Watch out for the students just above the line
5. Consider inclusive communication
6. Phasing in terms/new school years may be the way forward
7. Focus on wellbeing for ALL (teachers & students)
8. Schools are valuable! They offer a place for students, relationships beyond family, and significant learning opportunities.
9. Relationships and play matter- even in transitioning back to classrooms and considering gaps.
10. Trust teachers and professionals and their expertise. Let them lead.
11. Celebration and importance of essential workers and the role of working class career paths (grocery, nursing, medical, personal support, sanitation, home care, etc).
12. How can teachers and the teaching profession be celebrated and recognized alongside health experts in national/provincial press briefings. Can May 1st be a day to celebrate teachers and system leaders?

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES (LEARNLAB TOOL)



1. What's the biggest thing on your mind regarding COVID-19?

- Equity (vulnerable students, access, connectivity).
- Wellbeing, health, safety and welfare (teacher and student).
- Transition back into schools (to Face to Face learning and teaching).
- Transformational potential for education systems (learning from this pandemic).
- Trust in and between systems.

2. Which short-term strategies resonate for your system?

- Innovation in instruction & technology.
- Clear and inclusive communications.
- School leader and teacher collaboration & communication.
- Focus on wellbeing (student and teacher).
- Whole system cooperation to create solutions to challenges.
- New ways of teaching and learning.
- Phased re-entry.
- Importance of teacher knowledge and expertise.



An illustration of a student with a backpack, looking towards a wall with various digital icons like a laptop, Wi-Fi symbol, and location pins, connected by lines.

3. What is still worrying for you?

- Vulnerable students and groups (disadvantaged becoming more disadvantaged)
- Transitions and the re-opening of schools (for school leaders, teachers, students and families); equity and clarity in delayed/staged/targeted start ups
- ICT skills of teachers
- Online bullying
- Impact on early reading skills
- Alignment and collaboration between all key stakeholders (within and beyond pandemic)
- Leaving certificates and examinations

4. What about the longer term strategies?

- Importance of schools throughout all aspects of society
- Value of low paid workers- working class identity
- Invest in education and training; IT access as a public good (universal access)
- Embedding technology into teaching; innovation in teaching and learning; flexibility; rebuild the narrative around edtech
- Educational research- what did we learn through this pandemic?
- Collaboration beyond the pandemic
- Uplift the importance and roles of schools and the teaching profession
- Importance of diversity