



National College for
School Leadership

Inspiring leaders;
improving children's lives

A branch with several green leaves, some showing signs of aging or damage, positioned in the upper left corner of the slide.

Future leadership, future leaders

Seizing Success

Annual Leadership Conference



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Steve Munby

Chief Executive, NCSL

User-centred leadership

Growing tomorrow's leaders

“Work is about daily meaning, as well as daily bread; for recognition as well as cash; in short, for a sort of life, rather than a Monday through Friday sort of dying... We have the right to ask of work that it include meaning, recognition, astonishment and life.”

Studs Terkel

“This is the true joy in life - being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one.... I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me, it is a sort of splendid torch, which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it to future generations.”

George Bernard Shaw

Various models of school leadership

“Longing for that mythical period of calm and stability is to misunderstand the nature of the world and of leadership.”

*Price Waterhouse Coopers Report on
School Leadership 2007*

Courageous leadership

“Children delight in school because learning is ‘fun’. Their attitudes to learning and their behaviour are exemplary. Attendance is high. The care, guidance and support of children are exceptional and emphasise children’s emotional health. Teachers squeeze every last drop of creativity from children. The rich curriculum is packed with experiences that fully engage learners. Children with learning difficulties and or disabilities and those who speak a language other than English receive support of the highest quality and achieve equally well. Staff create a magical place to learn where academic rigour and emotional well-being happily co-exist. The leadership of the headteacher drives the whole school team to ‘Reach for the Stars!’” ”

OFSTED Report on a Knowsley Primary School, 2006

“At first, it was as though we were all walking round in slippers. We needed to move from slippers to tennis shoes, from tennis shoes to training shoes and from training shoes to running shoes. At the moment, he said, we are still in tennis shoes. We are starting to walk faster but we need to be prepared to run.”

*Peter Brabeck
CEO Nestlé*

*“I get knocked down
But I get up again
You’re never going to keep me down.”*

Chumbawumba - Tubthumping

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fail.”

Martin Luther King

Authentic and imperfect leadership

“...we have been witness to countless uncomfortable examples of executives who feel that the art of leadership is to give unfettered expression to their true selves in bold, take it or leave it fashion. They typically find that others choose to leave it.

“Leadership is not achieved by riding into town cowboy fashion – and shooting it up. Skilful leaders, to continue the analogy, need to get a sense of the town and to conform enough so that they are seen to be acting in the best interests of the townspeople, so they can lead change without being shot early in the proceedings.”

*‘Why should anyone be led by you?’
Robert Goffee and Gareth Jones*

“What are the broader purposes of education – to create a deeper sense of what is worth learning in the 21st Century, a deeper humanity? In pursuing this endeavour you need soul, suffering and above all, hope.”

*‘Leading Against the Grain’,
Professor Jonathon Jansen*

Characteristics of outstanding school leaders

- strong and principled moral purpose
- motivated by the challenge of providing the best educational experience
- thoughtful and systematic
- earn the trust they receive
- build confidence, capability and self-esteem in others
- inordinately high expectations, great optimism and believe in success
- decisive and prepared to take unpalatable decisions
- find innovative and often unorthodox solutions to problems

Partnership working





