Longworth Education
www.longwortheducation.co.nz
Napier, New Zealand

Wayfinding Leadership: Finding Our Way Through Whatever Comes Next

2027 Leadership Mentoring and Professional Community for Progressive School Leaders



An Invitation to Lead with Clarity in Uncertain Times

2027 will begin with uncertainty. By the time we come together, Aotearoa New Zealand will have been through a general election. We may be facing another three years under the current direction of education policy or navigating a change of government and another shift in priorities, expectations and ideology. **Either way, change is unlikely to stop.**

School leaders are already navigating significant curriculum reform, new mandates, competing expectations and increasing complexity. The challenge is not simply keeping up. It is working out **what matters, what deserves our attention, what we need to protect, and where there may be opportunities to think and lead differently.**

Wayfinding Leadership 2027 provides the space to do that

Across the year, we will step away from the immediate demands of implementation to make sense of what is happening around us, explore emerging research and innovative thinking, challenge assumptions, and consider what change means for our own schools and communities.

This is not about predicting what will happen next. **It is about developing the clarity, confidence and collective wisdom to navigate whatever does.**

When the map keeps changing, good leadership is less about following directions and more about knowing how to find your way.

A Growing Community of Wayfinders

In 2027, our existing leadership cohorts come together.

Some members will be entering their fourth year of the journey. Others will be continuing into Years 2 and 3. Together, we will draw on the relationships, experience and collective wisdom that have developed across this community.

This is more than a traditional leadership course. It is an **ongoing professional community for leaders committed to thoughtful, courageous and innovative leadership.**

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What Will Wayfinding Leadership 2027 offer?

Throughout 2027, our learning will remain deliberately responsive to the educational landscape and the needs of the group.

We will explore:

- navigating political, policy and curriculum change
- maintaining coherence when expectations compete
- protecting professional judgement and educational purpose
- making strategic decisions about what deserves our attention
- leading innovation and meaningful change
- challenging assumptions about traditional models of schooling
- exploring emerging research and innovative practice from Aotearoa and internationally
- sustaining ourselves and others through demanding periods of leadership.

Sessions will combine research, practical leadership tools, critical discussion, reflective practice and collaborative problem-solving, with opportunities to bring real leadership challenges from your own context to the group.

Who is this for?

Principals, deputy principals, assistant principals and emerging educational leaders who want to think deeply about leadership, navigate change thoughtfully and continue exploring what education could become.

Programme Structure: *February – November 2027*

- *Online Leadership Hui:* Two online mentoring and professional learning sessions Terms 1-3 and one in Term 4.
- *In-Person Hui:* Three half-day face-to-face sessions across the year for extended collaborative learning, reflection and connection.

Investment:

Early Bird Registration: $2500* + GST if REGISTERED by 1 December 2026
Standard Registration: $3000* + GST from 2 December 2026
**Fee includes all module materials and resources, and refreshments at in-person events. Travel costs to attend in-person events are at your own expense. Payment will be invoiced early 2026.*

Continue the journey in 2027

Register via info@longwortheducation.co.nz

Feedback from Previous Participants:

- *"Three years into this journey, the value of this leadership community continues to grow. Having a trusted group of leaders who are willing to challenge thinking, push boundaries and openly explore the realities facing our kura is incredibly valuable. It is rare to find a professional space where conversations can be this honest, thoughtful and future-focused."*
- *"Each year has added another layer to our learning. What began with exploring who we are and how we lead has developed into much deeper thinking about the systems, assumptions and ideas shaping education. The combination of current research, critical discussion and the collective wisdom of the group continually challenges us to think differently, while keeping us grounded in what matters most for our own kura and communities."*
- *"This community has become an important part of sustaining me as a leader. After three years together, there is a level of trust that allows us to bring the difficult questions, challenge one another's thinking and explore possibilities without needing to have all the answers. I leave our sessions feeling stretched, energised and more hopeful about what is possible for education."*

Introducing your Program Trainer:



Dr Sarah Aiono is an educational researcher, leadership coach, author and Director of Longworth Education. Her doctoral research explored the use of practice-based coaching in primary school leadership, and she works with school leaders across Aotearoa and internationally to support reflective practice, strategic thinking and meaningful change. A national and international speaker, Sarah brings together research, practical experience and innovative thinking to help leaders navigate complexity, challenge traditional approaches and lead with clarity and purpose.

Join us in shaping the future of education. Be a part of "Wayfinding Leadership" and turn your vision for educational leadership into reality.