Key questions for securing learning and physical safety

The following are key questions (and the SSTUWA's position), that need to be addressed to make any change happen to learning and physical safety in classrooms:

Question: Do we want to adopt a preventative approach?

SSTUWA position: There are currently underfunded systemic responsive measures in place. There is also an opportunity to reaffirm the importance the links between learning and physical safety of students and staff through the pedagogical choices made at the school level.

Q: Can we coordinate system-wide such an approach?

SSTUWA: Yes, but despite the Minister's policy release in 2018 these are well underfunded given the scope of the challenges being confronted by schools.

Q: Can school leaders lead their school context and build a sustainable approach?

SSTUWA: Yes. Identifying accurately what will work successfully in your school as a leader is fundamental to the solution's success. Selecting solutions that have the best chance of sustainable success becomes the next challenge for the school leadership team. Systemic professional learning on whole school practices should be available as a priority.

Q: Are we willing to accept that mental health must be recognised and resourced appropriately?

SSTUWA: It is currently accepted but inadequately underfunded.

Q: Perhaps most importantly, how much do we value safe and focused classrooms?

SSTUWA: This is best answered through action and evidence.

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