THEME: FLOURISHING STUDENTS, EXPLORES THE VITAL QUESTION: HOW DO WE BEST EQUIP OUR STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN A RAPIDLY EVOLVING WORLD?

5 Main Flourishing Students Themes:

1. **Measuring student success:** We know that traditional, standardised assessments often fail to capture the full spectrum of student learning and potential. Are we measuring the right things in the right way?

2. **Mental Health and Well-being**: 2 in 5 young people experience mental ill-health, and over double the amount of school absences are for those with a mental health condition. How might we better understand and promote youth mental health and well-being?

3. **Models of Schooling and Learning Pathways:** The traditional school structure may not meet the diverse needs of all students. Factors such as location, learning styles, daily routines, and personal situation and interests can impact engagement and success. How might we create more flexible and inclusive learning pathways to support every student?
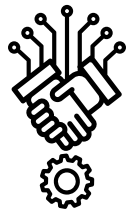
4. **Technology & Education:** Emerging technologies like AI are transforming the way students learn, offering new opportunities while also raising concerns about their impact on critical thinking and traditional learning methods. How might we harness the potential of AI and other technologies to enhance education while addressing these challenges?

5. **The world of work:** As the job market evolves, education systems must equip young people with the skills and experiences needed for future careers. Are our current systems effectively preparing youth for the world of work, or do we need to rethink how we bridge the gap between education and employment?

EMPATHY QUESTIONS:
THEME 1: MEASURING STUDENT SUCCESS:

We know that traditional, standardised assessments often fail to capture the full spectrum of student learning and potential. Are we measuring the right things in the right way?

1. What does success in school mean to you personally?

2. Beyond grades, what achievements or skills make you feel successful?

3. Have you ever felt that traditional assessments didn't reflect your true abilities? Why?

4. What skills do you think should be measured in school that aren't currently assessed?

5. How do you know when you've learned something meaningful, even if it's not tested?

6. Have you ever felt pressure from standardised testing? How did it impact you?

7. What are some alternative ways we could measure student success beyond exams?

8. How do you think different types of students (e.g., creative, hands-on learners) experience assessment?

9. If you could design your own success criteria for school, what would it look like?

10. How can schools celebrate and recognise student achievements more holistically?

EMPATHY QUESTIONS: THEME 2: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

2 in 5 young people experience mental ill-health, and over double the amount of school absences are for those with a mental health condition. How might we better understand and promote youth mental health and well-being?

1. What aspects of school life have the biggest impact on your mental well-being?

2. Have you ever struggled with stress or anxiety related to school? What helped (or didn't)?

3. How comfortable do you feel talking about mental health at school? Why?

4. What kind of support would make it easier for students to manage their mental health?

5. Do you think teachers understand the mental health challenges students face? Why or why not?

6. How does social media impact your mental well-being as a student?

7. What strategies have you or your friends used to handle stress, and have they been effective?

8. If schools could change one thing to better support student well-being, what should it be?

9. What does a mentally healthy school environment look like to you?

10. How can students and teachers work together to create a more supportive school culture?
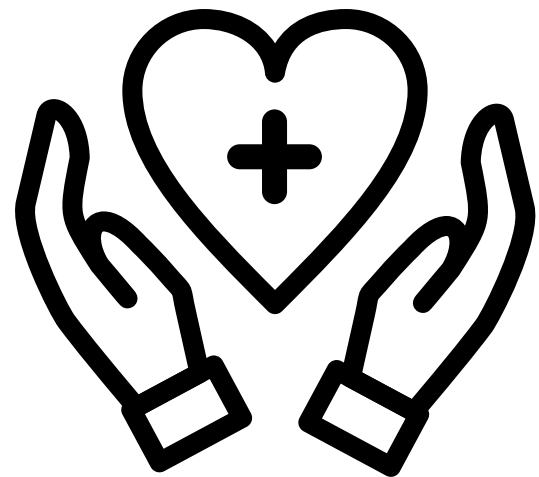
EMPATHY QUESTIONS:
THEME 3: MODELS OF SCHOOLING AND LEARNING PATHWAYS

The traditional school structure may not meet the diverse needs of all students. Factors such as location, learning styles, daily routines, and personal situation and interests can impact engagement and success. How might we create more flexible and inclusive learning pathways to support every student?

1. Have you ever felt that the traditional school system didn't meet your learning needs? Why?

2. What type of learning environment helps you stay most engaged and motivated?

3. How do you think schools can better support students with different learning styles?

4. If you could design your ideal school day, what would it look like?

5. Have you or someone you know considered alternative education options (e.g., online learning, homeschool, apprenticeships)? Why? and what was your/their experience?

6. What are the biggest challenges students face in staying engaged in their education?

7. How important is flexibility in learning (e.g., choice in subjects, schedules, or assessments) to you?

8. What skills or experiences do you think should be part of every student's education?

9. How can schools better connect learning with real-world experiences?

10. What role should students play in designing their own learning experiences?
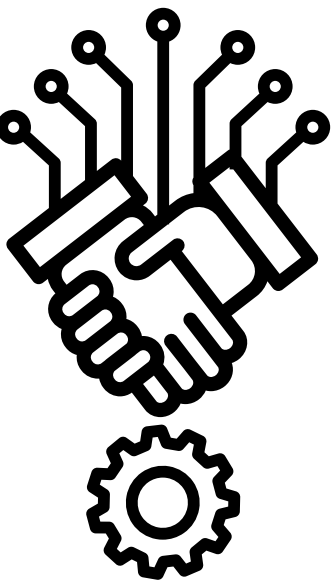
EMPATHY QUESTIONS:
THEME 4: TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION

Emerging technologies like AI are transforming the way students learn, offering new opportunities while also raising concerns about their impact on critical thinking and traditional learning methods. How might we harness the potential of AI and other technologies to enhance education while addressing these challenges?

1. How has technology helped or hindered your learning experience at school?

2. Have you ever encountered challenges with technology in your learning, including accessing it? What were they?

3. What role do you think AI should play in education?

4. Have you ever used an AI tool for schoolwork? What was your experience like?

5. How can teachers and students work together to use technology responsibly?

6. What skills do you think students need to develop in order to use AI effectively?

7. Have you ever encountered challenges with technology in your learning? What were they?

8. How do you think technology can make education more personalised for students?

9. What concerns do you have about the role of technology in education?

10. If you could design a tech tool to improve education, what would it do?

11. How can we ensure that all students have equal access to educational technology?

EMPATHY QUESTIONS:
THEME 5: THE WORLD OF WORK:

As the job market evolves, education systems must equip young people with the skills and experiences needed for future careers. Are our current systems effectively preparing youth for the world of work, or do we need to rethink how we bridge the gap between education and employment?

1. What career paths interest you, and do you feel school is preparing you for them?

2. Have you had opportunities to gain real-world experience (e.g., internships, job shadowing)? If not, how would that help?

3. What skills do you think are most important for future jobs that schools don't focus on enough?

4. How do you define success in your future career?

5. Have you ever felt unsure about how your education connects to future job opportunities?

6. What role do you think schools should play in helping students explore different careers?

7. If you could redesign career education in schools, what would you change?

8. What types of learning experiences would better prepare students for the workforce?

9. How important is entrepreneurship or self-employment as a career option for young people?

10. What's one thing you wish you knew about the world of work that isn't taught in school?