**Experiment A: Exploring your school’s complex problems with others**



This experiment you will use your learning to identify the types of complex problems in your organisation.

The key questions are

1. What complex problems exist in my organisation?
2. What do other people consider to be the complex problems within the organisation.
3. How do they compare to the tame problems that exist?

**The Experiment**

First, we would like you to identify the main complex problems you feel are in your organisation. Remember to use the definition and criteria of complex problems to help you to do this accurately.

Next, we would like you to organise some meetings with a range of staff within your organisation. These meetings could be groups of people (perhaps two groups of 3 or 4 people) or they could be one to one meetings (aim to do at least three if this is your preference).

What really matters is that:

1. There is a range of people involved in these meetings. You should seek to include both those in leadership positions and those who are regular teachers and teaching assistants.
2. That the meetings are separate from usual meetings, if possible.

The meeting/s need to be no more than 30-40 minutes in length. In these meetings, please follow these instructions:

* 1. Using the slide provided, teach the difference between complex problems and tame problems.
  2. Check their understanding of the difference between complex and tame problems using the questions on the next slide.
  3. Ask them to each provide an example of a complex problem within the school and to articulate how they feel this is a complex problem.
  4. Ask them to each provide an example of a tame problem within the school. Request that they can articulate how their example is a tame problem.

**Reflection questions**

Once you have conducted this meeting with a range of different people, reflect on the following questions.

1. What complex problems were identified?
2. What tame problems were identified?
3. How do they compare to the problems you identified?
4. To what extent are you surprised by answers, or are they what you expected?