

# Foundations of Christian School Leadership

## Course Syllabus



### Course Description

This course explores the theological, philosophical, and practical foundations of leadership in Christian schools. Participants will examine how biblical convictions shape leadership identity, leadership skills, school culture, and long-term institutional effectiveness.

Christian school leadership is presented not merely as managerial competence but as a formative calling. Leaders are entrusted with guiding people, shaping culture, protecting mission, and cultivating environments where both academic excellence and spiritual formation flourish.

Through biblical reflection, leadership standards analysis, applied school-based tasks, and collaborative dialogue, participants will develop a deeper understanding of how leadership convictions translate into sustainable leadership practice.

### Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Articulate a biblical philosophy of Christian school leadership
- Distinguish between technical leadership and conviction-based leadership
- Apply leadership skills that strengthen learning culture and mission alignment
- Evaluate leadership practices using Christian school leadership standards
- Understand leadership influence on staff development, student formation, and institutional effectiveness
- Evaluate and employ systems that support healthy governance and leadership practices
- Design a contextual leadership initiative that supports school growth and flourishing

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### Course Structure

The course is organized into **eight instructional weeks**, progressing from leadership identity toward strategic leadership impact and provided through the ACSI Europe Moodle Platform.

#### Week 1 — The Call and Character of the Christian School Leader

**Focus:** Leadership identity and conviction

Topics include:

- Leadership skills vs conviction-based leadership
- Biblical leadership models
- Leadership worldview formation

- Personal leadership convictions

**Key Outcome:**

Participants understand leadership as a theological and formative calling.

**Week 2 — Commitments and Capacities of the Christian School Leader**

**Focus:** Leadership practice in the learning community

Topics include:

- Communication, mentoring, decision-making, conflict resolution
- The school leader as a leader of learning
- Biblical foundations for leadership capacity
- Leadership influence on learning culture

**Key Outcome:**

Participants connect leadership skills with worldview commitments.

**Week 3 — Mission, Vision, and Strategic Leadership**

**Focus:** Sustainable leadership impact

Topics include:

- Strategies to integrate discipleship into school life
- Delegation and leadership multiplication
- Research insights into flourishing schools
- Leadership action planning

**Key Outcome:** Participants understand leadership as a driver of long-term flourishing.

**Week 4 — Leading People: Culture, Relationships, and Learning**

**Focus:** Staff culture and organizational effectiveness

Topics include:

- Staff alignment and development
- Whole-child student formation
- Partnering with parents and the local church
- Institutional maturity indicators

**Key Outcome:**

Participants evaluate leadership influence on staff culture and student development.

**Week 5 — Governance, Authority, and Collaborative Leadership**

**Focus:** Creating the conditions for collaboration, healthy leadership teams, and faithful decision-making

Topics include:

- Christ-centered collaboration and growth mindset
- Biblical principles for conflict, accountability, and restoration
- The purpose and function of a leadership team
- Stakeholder expectations and leadership tension

**Key Outcome:**

Participants analyze how leaders maintain a healthy, humble and hope-filled leadership structure.

**Week 6 — Systems that Sustain the Mission**

**Focus:** Foundational documents which guide policy and practice

Topics include:

- Aligning mission and vision
- Principles for biblically integrated curriculum planning
- Balancing academic rigor with intentional spiritual formation
- Rhythms for ongoing alignment and review

**Key Outcome:**

Participants understand the role of foundational documents in guiding school policy and operations.

**Week 7 — Legal, Financial, and Organizational Integrity**

**Focus:** Leaders as stewards of people, resources, and public trust

Topics include:

- Biblical principles for financial stewardship and transparency
- Aligning budgets with mission priorities
- Legal compliance and ethical responsibility
- Communicating the school's mission and story with clarity and integrity

**Key Outcome:**

Participants understand organizational systems as expressions of faithfulness, integrity, and love of neighbor.

**Week 8 — Integrative Leadership and Faithful Practice**

**Focus:** Leadership synthesis and application

Topics include:

- Academic and spiritual growth metrics
- Evaluating staff performance biblically and constructively
- Using data to improve without losing sight of mission
- Building sustainability and trusting God for the future

**Key Outcome:**

Participants articulate a coherent leadership framework and practical next steps.

**Learning Activities**

Participants will engage in:

- Video lectures and guided readings
- Biblical thematic studies
- Discussion forums and peer interaction
- School-based observation and application tasks
- Reflective leadership journaling
- Development of leadership philosophy documents

## **Assessment Requirements**

### **Weekly Discussion Participation**

Participants must:

- Post one original contribution
- Respond meaningfully to at least two peers

Discussion engagement is required in each week for course completion.

### **Leadership Reflection Assignments**

Short written reflections connecting:

- Biblical leadership principles
- Leadership skills in practice
- School culture observations
- Personal leadership growth

### **Practical Application Project**

Participants evaluate their school using leadership indicators and design one leadership initiative to strengthen mission alignment, staff culture, or learning effectiveness.

### **Final Submission**

Participants will submit:

- One-page **Philosophy of Education**
- **Personal Leadership Conviction Statement**
- **Leadership Action Plan**

### **Estimated Workload**

- Weekly engagement: 3–4 hours
- Total course workload: approximately **24 hours**

### **Course Completion**

Participants who complete all assignments and participation requirements satisfactorily will receive a **Course Completion Certificate in Foundations of Christian School Leadership**. CEUs will also be available for those registered in the US ACSI teacher certification system.