

Foundations of Christian School Leadership

Forming leaders who lead from conviction, govern with integrity, and build for eternity.

<p>Format: Online — ACSI Europe Moodle Platform</p> <p>Language: English and Spanish</p> <p>Length: 8 weeks — 3–4 hours per week</p> <p>Total hours: 30 instructional hours</p>	<p>Participants: Christian school heads, deputies, board members, aspiring leaders</p> <p>Accreditation: 2 semester credits toward the ACSI School Leadership Certificate</p> <p>Cost: €120 per participant (ACSI member schools; regional discounts available)</p> <p>Instructor: Paul Madsen, Educational Consultant, ACSI Europe</p>
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Course Description

Christian school leadership is not static. It is a dynamic process of growth, reflection, and faithful stewardship — one that requires both deep theological conviction and rigorous institutional practice. This course forms leaders from the inside out: beginning with the personal convictions and calling that shape leadership identity, and moving outward through the governance structures, curriculum systems, financial accountability practices, and communication disciplines that give those convictions voice within a Christ-centered educational community.

Drawing on Scripture, the ACSI Leadership Framework, the CSIP self-assessment platform (Standards 1–5), the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship, practitioner wisdom from experienced Christian school leaders, and the content of recent ACSI leadership conferences, this course equips participants to lead with integrity in the full complexity of their role.

The course is available as open enrolment and runs in English and Spanish. Participants are encouraged to begin in October, February, or April to maximise interaction with cohort colleagues serving in many nations.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- Articulate a theologically grounded philosophy of Christian school leadership and apply it to their own institutional context
- Distinguish between conviction-based leadership and technical management, and describe how the two relate
- Apply governance, financial accountability, and communication frameworks that reflect biblical stewardship and ECFA best practice
- Engage the CSIP self-assessment process (Standards 1–5) as a tool for mission-aligned school improvement and strategic planning
- Evaluate the health of their school across the full belief-to-practice chain: foundational documents, governance, curriculum, formation, financial accountability, and communication
- Develop a personalised integration brief connecting course content to a specific improvement priority in their school
- Name the spiritual rhythms and leadership practices that will sustain their calling across the long journey of Christian school leadership

Course Outline

Week	Title	Key Focus	Key Outcome
1–2	Identity, Conviction and Calling	Leadership identity as a theological calling; biblical models; personal conviction and worldview formation; the leader as a learner	Participants articulate the convictions and calling that ground their leadership
3–4	Mission, Culture and Community	Defining and communicating mission and vision; forming Christ-centred school culture; partnering with families and the church; CSIP Standards 1–2	Participants evaluate their school's culture and mission alignment

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5	Governance, Authority and Collaboration	Board-head relationships; authority and vulnerability (Crouch); growth mindset in leadership teams; healthy conflict and accountability; CSIP Standard 2	Participants analyse governance structures and collaborative leadership practices
6	Systems that Sustain the Mission	The Christian Philosophy of Education; the belief-to-practice chain; biblical worldview integration; spiritual formation assessment; CSIP Standards 3 and 4	Participants assess how foundational documents and curriculum systems express institutional convictions
7	Legal, Financial and Organisational Accountability	ECFA Standards; governance and financial oversight; compensation ethics; audit spectrum; communication integrity; PUMP framework; CSIP Standards 1–2	Participants apply accountability frameworks to governance, finance, and communication
8	Integrative Leadership and Faithful Practice	The leader as a living sacrifice; transmutation; transformational leadership behaviours; CSIP Standard 5; strategic planning; calling and sustainability	Participants integrate the course into a personal leadership brief and strategic course outcomes

Learning Activities	Assessment												
<p>Participants engage each week through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional content: video, reading, and guided frameworks • Biblical and theological reflection • Weekly discussion forums with cohort colleagues • Structured written reflections connecting content to school context • CSIP self-assessment activities (Standards 1–5 across Weeks 3–8) • A capstone integration brief (see Assessment) 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Task</th> <th>When</th> <th>Weight</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Weekly forum discussion (original post + 2 peer responses)</td> <td>Each week</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weekly written reflections (connecting content to school context)</td> <td>Weeks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capstone Integration Brief (800–1000 words, 5 structured sections)</td> <td>Week 8</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Task	When	Weight	Weekly forum discussion (original post + 2 peer responses)	Each week	40%	Weekly written reflections (connecting content to school context)	Weeks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6	40%	Capstone Integration Brief (800–1000 words, 5 structured sections)	Week 8	20%
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<p>Completion and Certification</p> <p>Participants who complete all assignments and participation requirements will receive a Course Completion Certificate in Foundations of Christian School Leadership. The course is approved for 2 semester credits toward the ACSI School Leadership Certificate.</p>	<p>Key Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACSI Leadership Framework • Mission True: PeterKGreer.com • CSIP Self-Assessment Platform: acsieu.org/csip • ACSI Flourishing Schools research • Andy Crouch, Strong and Weak (IVP, 2016) • ECFA Standards: ecfa.org/Standards.aspx 												
<p>Register and enrol: acsieurope.org/en-us/elearning-registration Questions: acsieurope@acsi.org</p>													