

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
- Develop a personal leadership conviction statement and philosophy of education
- Design a contextual leadership initiative that supports school growth and flourishing

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 — Leadership Skills as Expressions of Conviction

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 — Leadership Culture, Staff Collaboration, and Whole-Child Formation

Focus: Staff culture and organizational effectiveness

Topics include:

- Christ-centered collaboration
- Staff alignment and development
- Whole-child student formation
- Institutional maturity indicators

Key Outcome:

Participants evaluate leadership influence on staff culture and student development.

Week 4 — Leadership Capacity and School Flourishing

Focus: Sustainable leadership impact

Topics include:

- Delegation and leadership multiplication
- Mission protection during growth
- Research insights into flourishing schools
- Leadership action planning

Key Outcome:

Participants understand leadership as a driver of long-term flourishing.

Week 5 — Strategic Leadership and Vision Alignment

Focus: Mission clarity and strategic direction

Topics include:

- Vision casting and mission drift
- Aligning programs, structures, and priorities
- Leading change in Christian school contexts
- Stakeholder expectations and leadership tension

Key Outcome:

Participants analyze how leaders maintain mission integrity while navigating change.

Week 6 — Leadership Decision-Making and Governance Relationships

Focus: Authority, responsibility, and accountability

Topics include:

- Working with boards and governance structures
- Ethical leadership decision-making
- Stewardship of resources and institutional trust
- Crisis and complexity leadership

Key Outcome:

Participants strengthen leadership judgment in complex organizational environments.

Week 7 — Developing People and Future Leaders

Focus: Leadership formation and succession

Topics include:

- Mentoring and coaching teachers
- Leadership pipeline development
- Professional growth cultures
- Discipleship within leadership structures

Key Outcome:

Participants design approaches for developing leadership capacity in others.

Week 8 — Leadership Integration and Personal Action Plan

Focus: Leadership synthesis and application

Topics include:

- Integrating conviction, skill, and strategy
- Leadership reflection and growth planning
- School-based leadership initiative design
- Personal leadership philosophy refinement

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.