

# Courageous Advocacy

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**Network for Church of England Schools**

September 2023- 2024



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
EDUCATION OFFICE

FOUNDATION FOR  
EDUCATIONAL  
LEADERSHIP



## WHY DO WE WANT TO SEE SCHOOLS BECOMING PLACES WHERE STUDENTS ARE COURAGEOUS ADVOCATES?

At the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership (CEFEL), we believe that ‘leaders in education are called to pursue social justice and wellbeing of all, showing love for the disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable’.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, church schools were set up originally for this very purpose back in 1811!

Courageous advocacy is the act of speaking up and advocating for a cause or issue that one believes in, even in the face of opposition or backlash. It requires a level of courage and conviction, as one is taking a stand and potentially putting oneself at risk in order to make a positive impact. Courageous advocates are willing to take a stand and speak out against injustice, even if it means facing personal or professional consequences. They are driven by a strong sense of purpose and a belief that their actions can make a difference.

We have a vision to support schools in providing spaces where students are able to become courageous advocates by:

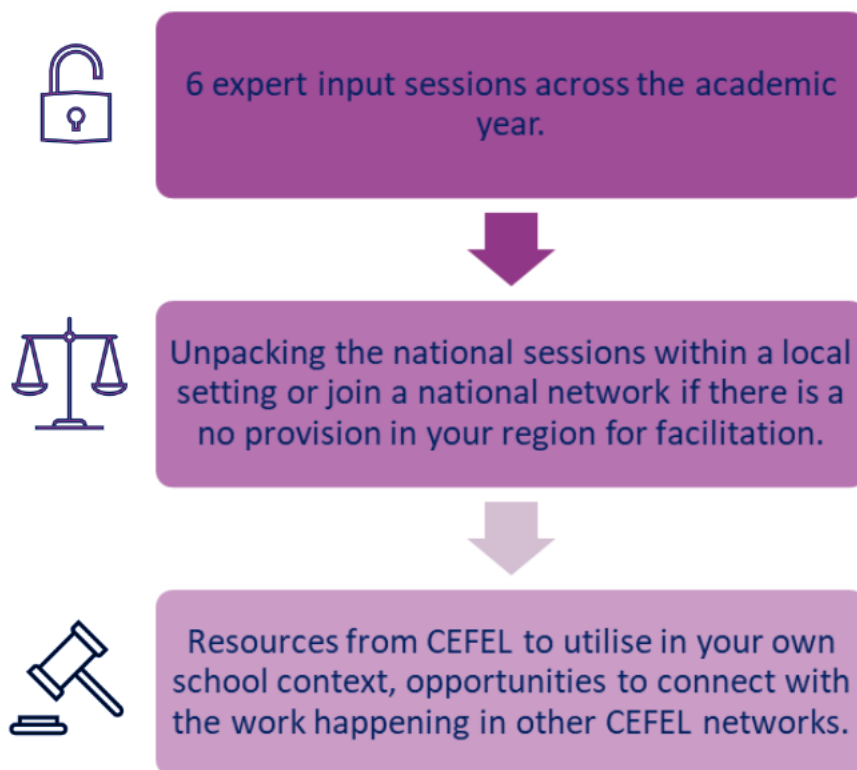
- demonstrating **WISDOM** by upskilling staff with the evidence-informed knowledge to support these students as best they can (and signposting further in-depth training)
- building **COMMUNITIES** that collaborate to ensure flourishing for all – particularly the most vulnerable – through networking school leaders together
- seeing the innate **DIGNITY** in each and every child, thus seeking to understand them as best we can and prioritising their needs within our schools
- becoming beacons of **HOPE** so that ‘bad experiences need not have the last word’<sup>2</sup>

By partnering with the Courageous Advocacy Network, schools can help their students develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to speak out against injustice, promote equality and human rights and work towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

Through expert webinar sessions, engagement and discussions, the Courageous Advocacy Network can help school leaders empower their students to become powerful agents of change, inspiring them to take action and positively impact their communities and beyond.

The structure of the network is as follows:

This network is not a course and does not replace the depth of knowledge and understanding that can be gained through expert training. It is an opportunity to engage in discussion, raise awareness and identify areas for development and gaps in knowledge.



One of the key benefits of this network is connecting schools with organisations with expertise in this field. They can offer their own programmes, resources and materials, which schools can access to deepen their knowledge of these topics in much greater depth.

Each network session will build on the learning from the expert instruction. Participants will be expected to engage with that learning, considering how to apply it to their own context. Key questions will encourage participants to try out/ explore a particular activity or strategy in their own school and report back at the next network session.



## OVERVIEW

Session	Date (all 4-5 pm)	Topic	National/ Regional
OPEN WEBINAR	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 <b>4.00 pm – 5.00 pm</b>	<b>What is Psychological Safety?</b> How does it impact well-being, performance and collaboration in schools? How do we create psychologically safe spaces?	Patrice Dawkins - Jackins
Network Input Session 1 (virtual)	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023 <b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>What is Courageous Advocacy? What is the Why?</b>	Caroline Weir
Facilitators Session 1	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 <b>4.00-5.00 pm</b>	<b>What is Courageous Advocacy? What is the Why?</b>  How to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources. (Open webinar & Session 1)	Led by a CEFEL team member
Local Network Session	October and November	<b>What is Courageous Advocacy? What is the Why?</b>	Led locally
Network Input Session 2 (virtual)	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 <b>4.00 pm – 5.00 pm</b>	<b>What is justice?</b> How to define justice and why it matters for education. How to support pupil voice and agency in addressing local and global issues.	Shonagh Reid
Facilitators Session 2	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 <b>4.00-4.45 pm</b>	<b>What is justice?</b> - How to define justice and why it matters for education. How to support pupil voice and agency in addressing local and global issues.  How to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources. (Open webinar & Session 1)	Led by a CEFEL team member
Local Network Session 2	During December 2023 and January 2024	<b>What is justice?</b> - How to define justice and why it matters for education. How to support pupil voice and agency in addressing local and global issues.  Unpacking the national input locally	Led locally
Network Input Session 3(virtual)	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 <b>4.00 pm – 5.00 pm</b>	<b>Advocating for Racial Justice</b> - Exploring some of the challenges and opportunities for promoting social justice and advocating in your school.	Bola-Alysia Ayonrinde National Racial Justice Lead for CEFEL
Facilitators Session 3	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024 <b>4.00 pm – 5.00 pm</b>	<b>Advocating for Racial Justice</b> - Exploring some of the challenges and opportunities for promoting racial justice and advocating in your school.  How to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by a CEFEL team member
Local Network Session 3	During January and February	<b>Advocating for Racial Justice</b> - Exploring some of the challenges and opportunities for promoting racial justice and advocating in your school.  Unpacking the national input locally	Led locally
Network Input Session 4 (virtual)	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 <b>4.00 pm – 5.00 pm</b>	<b>Advocating for Restorative Justice</b> – How to repair the damage and prevent future harm.	Expert
Facilitators Session 4	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 <b>4.00-4.45 pm</b>	<b>Advocating for Restorative Justice</b> - How to repair the damage and prevent future harm.	Led by a CEFEL team member

		How to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	
Local Network Session 4	During March and April	<b>Advocating for Restorative Justice</b> - How to repair the damage and prevent future harm.  Unpacking the national input locally	Led locally
Network Input Session 5 (virtual)	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024 <b>4.00 pm – 5.00 pm</b>	<b>Advocating for Environmental Justice</b> - How to define environmental justice and why it matters for education. How to support pupil voice and agency in addressing local and global environmental issues	Expert
Facilitators Session 5	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 <b>4.00-4.45 pm</b>	<b>Advocating for Environmental Justice</b> - How to define environmental justice and why it matters for education. How to support pupil voice and agency in addressing local and global environmental issues.  How to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member
Local Network Session 5	During May and June	<b>Advocating for Environmental Justice</b> - How to define environmental justice and why it matters for education. How to support pupil voice and agency in addressing local and global environmental issues.  Unpacking the national input locally	Led Locally
Network Input Session 6	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 <b>4.00 pm – 5.00 pm</b>	<b>Practical Strategies:</b> - How can we support students and young people to be advocates? How to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Expert
Facilitators Session 6	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 <b>4.00-4.45 pm</b>	<b>Practical Strategies:</b> - How can we support students and young people to be advocates? Unpacking the national input locally	Led by CEFEL team member
Local Network Session 6	During June and July	<b>Practical Strategies:</b> - How can we support students and young people to be advocates? input locally	Led Locally

## Intended Learning Outcomes:

- An improved understanding of what courageous advocacy is and how it benefits students/ young people in a range of different ways
- Increased understanding of the skills and values that enable students/ young people to speak up and take action for the causes and issues they care about
- For school or trust leaders to be taking steps to foster a culture of social justice and advocacy across a whole school or trust
- For practitioners to be utilising a range of strategies to support and empower students who have engaged in or are interested in courageous advocacy
- Evaluated and reviewed policies and procedures for promoting pupil voice and participation; identified and implemented actions to impact positively upon student wellbeing and outcomes
- School leaders feeling equipped to obtain appropriate external advice and support from a range of agencies and organisations (including those signposted by the network) that can help them develop their courageous advocacy initiatives

**Ultimately, we want to see those students and young people in our schools who are engaged in some form of courageous advocacy to be more able to make a positive difference for themselves and others because they are informed, supported and inspired to act.**

This is dependent on schools who are led and staffed by adults who demonstrate particular mindsets and, therefore, behaviours. Therefore, our network principles, which we are seeking to develop in participants (with the intention of effecting long-term change) are:

- A willingness to learn and admit any gaps in knowledge
- The courage to seek help and make difficult decisions
- Empathetic listening which seeks to understand
- Open-mindedness to different approaches and ideas
- Non-judgemental engagement with others
- Commitment to action in service of students/ young people



## ROLE OF DIOCESE/ MAT/ DELIVERY PARTNER:

Each host diocese/ MAT/ DP will need to provide a *facilitator* for the network who will engage with the taught sessions, CEFEL training and lead discussions locally on the materials. The time commitment for this is around 1 hour per month, plus preparation time.

CEFEL will provide:

- All taught sessions by experts (on Zoom)
- Training and ongoing support for facilitators
- Materials for facilitators to use in their network groups, including suggested reading and key questions to reflect on practice
- An online resource area with access to taught sessions, additional reading and signposting further training and expertise

## Cost of the Network for 2023-24

The cost of the Network for 2023-24 is:

Price:	Price per school (If 10 schools are in Network)	Price per school (If 20 schools are in Network)
All this for <b>£750</b> per local network for DDEs or MATs (Includes training and resources)	£75	£37.50

Or £250 to join the national network for individual schools.

Please note that all prices are exclusive of VAT.

CEFEL will also host and lead a national secondary network group, with up to 20 secondary schools.

Contact [lorraine.prince@churchofengland.org](mailto:lorraine.prince@churchofengland.org) for more details or to sign up.

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