Chapter 1: Leadership Self–Reflection

After reading this chapter, reflect independently, with a colleague, or as a leadership team on how your personal beliefs and practices influence your school's culture of belonging.

In what ways can I affirm the needs of all students at my school, regardless of my personal beliefs and biases?

Are there systemic cracks—biases in curriculum, outdated policies, or insufficient staff training—that I've grown comfortable with?

What's preventing me from taking action?

How do the elements of acceptance, inclusion, and support contribute to a sense of belonging for students? In what ways can I encourage my staff to actively incorporate these elements into their professional practices so that every student feels valued and accepted?

How have previous attempts at large-scale or systemic changes been received and implemented? If I had made such a change before, what would I do differently this time?

Take an honest assessment of how comfortable you are with handling conflicts that arise from issues of belonging within your school. Based on your level of comfort, what steps do you typically take to address these challenges, and in what areas can you improve?