

# LEEDS SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY

Welcome to your first edition of Leeds Schools of Sanctuary! Leeds Church Institute are overseeing the Schools of Sanctuary programme in the city to reignite interest in the scheme and to support schools to be places of welcome for all, especially those from sanctuary seeking backgrounds. In this booklet you can read more about what a School of Sanctuary is and how close you might be to gaining the award. You'll discover what you need to do further to work towards this.

## WELCOME FROM KATHERINE

I worked with Christian Aid in Leeds for 13 years as a Regional Coordinator and have a background in supporting and encouraging those committed to ensuring the world is an inclusive, safe place where all can thrive. I worked with supporters and volunteers including volunteer teachers pointing them towards relevant lesson plans and assemblies for the topics which they came into schools to teach on. I hope this booklet leaves you inspired to work towards gaining the Schools of Sanctuary award. The chances are that you already have several initiatives in place which mean you are well on your way.

As I write in February 2022, five schools both secondary and primary have signed up to the scheme over the past six months. Will your school be one of others this year?

I'd love to hear from you at  
[sanctuary@leedschurchinstitute.org](mailto:sanctuary@leedschurchinstitute.org)

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Girls at Allerton CE celebrate  
Chinese New Year on



# What is a School of Sanctuary?

A School of Sanctuary is:

- a place that fosters a culture of welcome and safety for people seeking sanctuary, including asylum seeking and refugee families.
- educates the whole school community about the human right to sanctuary and identifies practical means for schools to demonstrate that commitment.
- builds empathy and intercultural awareness by: promoting the voices and contributions to society of people who have either sought or who are seeking sanctuary; building understanding of the experiences of displaced people; and helping combat stereotypes about refugees and asylum seekers - even where there might not be people seeking sanctuary in the school.

The Schools of Sanctuary website is  
<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>



## FOCUS:

### Christ Church Upper Armley CoE Primary School.

This artwork stands at the entry to the school and each classroom has a similar picture showing all the countries with which the children identify. Children are encouraged to bring in pictures of their family and a greeting in the language of that country is learnt by all children in their class. Christ Church Upper Armley school have signed the organisational pledge to become a School of Sanctuary and are therefore working towards gaining the award in 2022.

## Are you already doing this?

- Building a school culture that reduces intolerance, hate speech and bullying
- Increasing pupil voice and promoting active & engaged citizenship
- Promoting well-being & community cohesion by building empathetic school environments
- Engaging families and strengthening the school's role in the local community

## Then you are already well on the way to gaining the Schools of Sanctuary Award!

The Award also offers the opportunity for:

- Imaginative re-engagement with required curriculum areas such literacy, languages, arts, geography, history, humanities. You can explore the experience of people seeking sanctuary in all these areas.
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education and 'British Values'. Teaching these aspects of education with concrete examples from various people groups' or individual's experiences will ensure they are memorable and resonate with children.
- Improving the provision of English as an additional language in school. Help is available at <https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/>
- Helping improve pupil outcomes and attendance - students that feel safe and included will be more likely to attend schools
- Enhancing community links - A School of Sanctuary needs to be embedded in the community, welcoming families, parents as well as children, and respects and values each and every student.





## Why become a School of Sanctuary?

Schools are often at the forefront of receiving and supporting those forcibly displaced - for example, nearly a quarter of asylum seekers in the year ending September 2019 were under 18.

It is important that all schools recognise the need to pre-emptively prepare for the arrival of a new student who is seeking sanctuary. In this context and amidst the ongoing hostility in the media and some public spaces, young people in the UK need not only to learn about these issues but where possible meet people face-to-face who have lived experience of displacement in order to understand both their local communities and the wider world better.

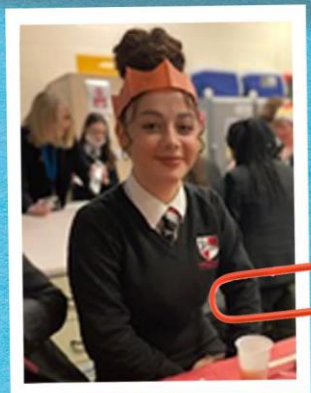
*'You can see the children's pride when they discuss the importance of our academy being a School of Sanctuary with any visitors to the academy.'*

*School of Sanctuary Lead at Outwood Primary Academy Greystone in Ripon North Yorkshire*

*- Mrs Went*

I came to the UK as a refugee from Lebanon in 2018. I am from Syria but I had to move to Lebanon for three years to get away from the war. My Mum was with me in Lebanon for one year but then she came to the UK and I stayed with my uncle's family for two years before I saw her again. This was a sad time for me and I cried every day.

### FOCUS: Ghalia's Story



When I came to Lawnswood School in 2018, I had never been to school before, not even in Syria. I didn't know how to read or write in any language and I couldn't speak English at all.

The EAL teachers helped me to learn to read and write. They worked with me 1:1 every day. I found my best friends in Lawnswood and they all helped me to learn English and get used to the school; my cousins helped me too. I have access lessons to help me understand new words and now I am doing GCSE exams. I like Art the best and I want to be a designer in future. I will go to college in September to study design.

I go to clubs in EAL and I have learned lots of things and built my confidence. I help my teachers a lot and I welcome new students to the school. Two years ago, I won the EAL award for Excellence and Endeavour. Last year, I won the whole school Mandela Award for Leadership. A new person coming to Lawnswood does not have to be scared. Every teacher helps you a lot and all the students are friendly.

Ghalia Y11 Lawnswood School



# Ensuring Inclusive Practice

Inclusive practice includes recognition and celebration of the diversity of students' ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds and ensuring that school is a place that respects, values and is comfortable for each and every student.

Some aspects include:

*Representation in school:*

Do students see themselves represented across the school - in the curriculum, in the teaching/staff body, in displays and in awards?

*Recognition of cultural and religious celebrations:*

Are you aware of and informed about the celebrations that are important to your students and their families?

How do you recognise these celebrations in school? See what Allerton CE are doing below!

Are families made aware of their entitlement to cultural and religious holidays and student absence from school?

## FOCUS: Allerton Church of England Primary School.

Allerton CoE Primary celebrate Refugee Week each year in June and pre pandemic had an international café where they showed films in different languages for students and invited families to join in. You can see their work on the website which includes a film showing all the languages spoken and how proud the children are of their languages!

<https://www.allertonceprimary.com/eal/>



Brothers Lincoln and Martin Wong in their colourful traditional jackets and fun with puppets and costumes at school.

There are sometimes days which feel particularly joyful at Allerton CE School and February 1 2022 was one of these! We were able to celebrate Chinese New Year through school and with our 24 Mandarin and Cantonese speaking children and their families. We were joined by a large number of our families in the school cafe for a celebration of food and well wishes first thing. Children joined from their classrooms after registration. It was amazing to see many of our new families from Hong Kong in attendance and we hope that they were able to meet more people and make connections during the morning. Classes took part in different activities throughout the day. Year 4 made dragons to celebrate the fact that they were born in the year of the dragon (or the snake!). In 3YO nursery and Year 5, parents kindly came in to support with activities. In Year 1 they were looking at good luck and well-wishing messages and in Year 3, the children made lanterns decorated with tigers for the 'Year of the Tiger'. Mrs Bentley had organised for staff to take home Chinese food at the end of the day to round off an amazing day. Bring on next year!

Kirsty Hall. Year 4 teacher



# Assembly ideas and lesson plans.

Regular school events (assemblies, celebrations, learning excursions) are excellent opportunities to incorporate themes about displacement, migration and asylum.

Lesson plans and activity sheets are available from a number of organisations for use across the curriculum. Here are the main organisations providing resources with links.

## Schools of Sanctuary

<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/resources>

## The Red Cross

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/refugees-and-migration>

## UNICEF

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/resources/teaching-resources/>

Here is an example of an assembly for primary school children. For the full assembly including the competition see: .

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/resources/teaching-resources/guidance-assemblies-lessons/primary-school-assemblies/>

### 3. MIGRATION AND HOW IT BENEFITS SOCIETY



A family from Afghanistan choosing clothes together at Divljana refugee camp in Serbia. UNICEF/Vis.



ANY TIME

#### Article 2

The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

#### Article 4

Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights

#### Article 6

Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

#### Keywords

- Recognition
- Empowerment
- Hope
- New beginnings

#### Resources

- Display an image of Steve Jobs.
- You will also need to display seven images of achievements or inventions of migrants or refugees, along with some other images of items that were not created by migrants or refugees. You could include: a **book of psychoanalysis** (the movement was founded by Sigmund Freud, from Austria); a **Fugees album cover** (Wyclef Jean and Pras Michel are Haitian) or **Rita Ora's album or singles cover art** (she was born in Yugoslavia); an **iPhone** (Apple was founded by Steve Jobs, born in Syria); an **Olympic gold medal** for the UK (Mo Farah is from Somalia); **The Muppets** (started by Lew Grade, from Ukraine); the **Mini** (designed by Alex Issigonis, from Turkey); a **Marks and Spencer's shopfront** (co-founder Michael Marks was from Poland). You will then

10 PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES / MIGRATION AND HOW IT BENEFITS SOCIETY (P.1 OF 3)



# Day of Welcome – resources for the Friday ahead of Refugee Week. Why not get involved?!

<https://unhcr.eurekos.com/archive/file/47423>



**UNHCR** have resources for different age groups including a curriculum for ages 6-9, 9-12, 12-15 and 15-18. They also have a website for teaching about refugees and a short CPD course for teachers. More on this at the end of this booklet.

<https://www.unhcr.org/teaching-about-refugees.html>

You may also find their Global Trends in Forced Displacement page helpful

<https://www.unhcr.org/flagship-reports/globaltrends/>

**National Education Union**

<https://neu.org.uk/refugee>

**Amnesty**

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/education/2015/10/8-educational-resources-to-better-understand-the-refugee-crisis/>

**CAFOD**

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Refugee-resources>

**BBC** have case studies from of children seeking sanctuary.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/pshe-ks2--ks3-seeking-refuge/zn8bpg8>



# Criteria for becoming a School of Sanctuary:

## Learn Embed Share.

The Schools of Sanctuary criteria have been structured to fit into the three overarching processes of Learn, Embed, and Share, which are used for all sanctuary awards given out by City of Sanctuary UK.

Pages 9-20 of the National Schools of Sanctuary Resource Book have many more ideas and inspiration for how to fulfil the criteria listed below. Please see

<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/159/2021/06/DRAFT-June-2021-SoS-Resource-Pack.pdf>

**LEARN** about what it means to be seeking sanctuary and issues surrounding this and how to support those who are seeking sanctuary within the school.

**EMBED** concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion into their very fabric, and that share and celebrate their achievements.

**SHARE** their values and activities across the entire school community, with students' families and in their local community.

### LEARN

- Training and education opportunities are provided for school staff & management on refugee, asylum and migration issues.
- Evidence of refugee/asylum/migration learning activities are included in school life and at least one example in the curriculum, across the key stages.

### SHARE

- A public commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of welcome, including the endorsement of City of Sanctuary charter which can be done via signing the City of Sanctuary organisation pledge. This pledge should be included on the school's website and in a public space in the school.
- The school publicly highlights its activities in support of welcome and inclusion. This can include social media/ website posts, school newsletter updates or attending regional activities or meetings.
- Commitment to on-going engagement with the Schools of Sanctuary stream. This may include sharing resources, ideas and achievements via the school's website or the national City of Sanctuary website, and/or with other local/regional schools.

### EMBED

- The school must demonstrate how it has embedded the concept of welcome and inclusion in the school. This should show how the school will continue to develop and sustain a culture of welcome beyond the award and ideally, this should be linked to the School's Improvement / Development Plan and made clear in policy documents and induction processes.
- Recognition of and participation in Refugee Week or other annual/regular celebratory events which highlight the contribution of people seeking sanctuary and migrants to the UK. More information about the annual event can be found here: <http://refugeeweek.org.uk>
- Commitment to supporting age appropriate active pupil voice on sanctuary and welcome/welcoming activities in the school. For example, this might mean ensuring that your School Council or other student-led groups are actively involved in the process of working towards recognition.



# Steps to becoming a School of Sanctuary.

1. Sign an organisational pledge

<https://data.cityofsanctuary.org/sign-an-organisation-pledge> showing your support for the City of Sanctuary vision.



2. Make contact with Katherine Hogg, Leeds Schools of Sanctuary Lead on [sanctuary@leedschurchinstitute.org](mailto:sanctuary@leedschurchinstitute.org) and arrange a conversation or a school visit.

3. Familiarise yourself with the criteria for becoming a SoS and where your school is in relation to this. Use the audit tool to help you with this and read the full SoS Resource Pack.

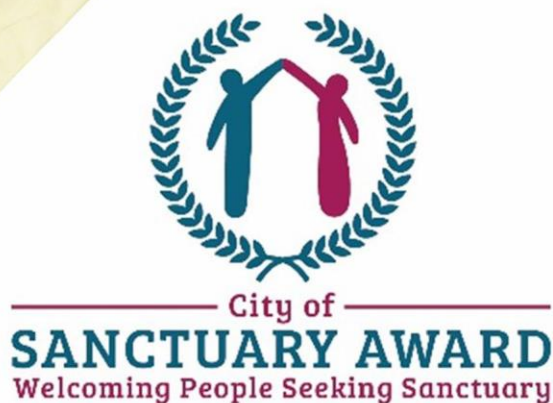
<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/159/2021/11/Schools-of-Sanctuary-Resource-Pack.pdf>



4. Look through the guidance for completing an application form. Upload this to your schools' shared drive so all teachers can add documents to evidence how you meet the criteria. <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/resources> and when complete, submit to your local lead.



5. An Appraisal will take place - with your local lead, another professional and including someone from a sanctuary seeking background. After feedback you will hopefully receive the award and after 3 years you will need to renew it. Receiving the award is a time for celebration – you might like to link this with Refugee Week or create a special event at school inviting a local dignitary as well as friends and families. We ask that you display the award logo on your website.





## Case Study: Lawnswood School.

Lawnswood School are renewing their School of Sanctuary status after attaining it in 2014 initially. There is an EAL department which set up a Diversity Forum which all children are welcome to join. Pupils from the Diversity Forum went into primary schools to tell their stories and have previously done a project filming primary school children learning about where each other are from and celebrating diversity.

The EAL department also created slides for KS3 as part of form time/tutor period. The slides fit in with the whole school diversity calendar of events and include topics such as kindness, disability, human rights as well as opportunities to discuss religious festivals throughout the year such as Diwali or Christmas. Here is an example of one of the discussion starter slides.

### Week 11 Our Form

**How many different language do we speak?** Raise hands and make a list of different languages  
**Is anyone bilingual?**  
**How many people were born in Leeds?** Raise hands and share different place of birth  
**What are the advantages of attending a diverse, multicultural school?** Discuss



### DIVERSITY FORUM

S05 Tuesdays 3-4

This is led by KS4 students and includes pupils from different year groups, cultures and backgrounds. The group meet regularly throughout the year and are involved in a number of different roles and responsibilities to promote diversity and culture throughout the school. Students work on displays, assemblies, fundraising and awareness campaigns as well as being ambassadors at parents' evenings and visiting other schools.

- The main principles of the group are:
- Make all students feel welcome and included
  - Share different cultures, beliefs and promote harmony
  - At Lawnswood every pupil has equal rights and responsibilities.

The EAL department also have regular coffee mornings for parents who don't speak English well, helping them with any aspects of life in England. Help is also provided for students completing personal statements for university. They have worked with My Bright Kite, a specialist not-for-profit organisation working to improve the wellbeing and inclusion of young refugees through a range of professional services and bespoke youth projects and created 12 films each one telling the story of a young person. They are available at <https://www.lawnswoodschool.co.uk/our-school/english-as-an-additional-language/>

Lawnswood hope to celebrate achieving their School of Sanctuary Award in Refugee Week 2022.

'I am excited that Lawnswood School is working towards the School of Sanctuary Award. The EAL department supports me with my English and I can always drop in for help, advice or just a chat. I am from Egypt but arrived from Japan and was made to feel welcome very quickly with the support of a buddy who spoke my own language. I enjoy being part of the diversity forum and have been involved in a number of projects. One of them was making a video to help other students and teachers understand what it is like to be new to the country and the UK education system. We have recently had a Victorian Christmas Party to help us understand Christmas traditions to support learning of A Christmas Carol for our GCSE English Literature. Our school does many things to make pupils feel safe, welcomed and valued and is definitely a place of sanctuary.'



Ali Y11 Lawnswood School



What next?

**Refugee Week 2022 – 20-26 June  
and Day of Welcome 17 June 2022.**

### **Leeds Church Institute Refugee Week event**

Leeds Church Institute are planning an event on 21/22 June 2022 (tbc) to bring together schools involved in the Schools of Sanctuary Scheme to celebrate working towards the award and to enable schools to share ideas. This will be at the Civic Hall and the Mayor will be invited. You are invited to attend if your school is working towards the School of Sanctuary status. Contact Katherine Hogg if this is relevant to you and you would like to bring a group of students. We would love to see you!

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

Assemblies for this week can be found at

<https://assembliesforall.org.uk/events/refugee-week/>

### **Case Studies of Refugee week celebrations**

<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/2021/08/11/an-action-packed-refugee-week-at-st-mary-the-virgin-ps>






## Further learning opportunity:

**\*\*If** you are interested in undertaking a short UNHCR course on 'Teaching About Refugees' please contact Katherine Hogg**\*\***. Katherine has undertaken this course recently and recommends it for all teachers working with children from a sanctuary seeking background. It was great to learn the terminology and the difference between an asylum seeker/refugee/migrant etc. There were powerful videos of those with lived experience sharing their stories which really brings it home what many young people have been through before arriving in UK.

## Further regular news:

Please sign up to <https://data.cityofsanctuary.org/schoolsnewsletter/signup#> to receive regular e-news from Schools of Sanctuary nationally. 

## Contacts:


**Leeds Schools of Sanctuary Lead:** Katherine Hogg  
NB primary working days are Tues and Weds mornings.  
Tel: 0113 245 4700

Email: [sanctuary@leedschurchinstitute.org.uk](mailto:sanctuary@leedschurchinstitute.org.uk)


Twitter: SoSLeeds – please follow us if your school is on Twitter!

**Leeds City of Sanctuary:** <https://leeds.cityofsanctuary.org/> 

**Leeds Schools of Sanctuary:**

<https://leeds.cityofsanctuary.org/schools-of-sanctuary> 

**National: Schools of Sanctuary:** <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/> 

**National: City of Sanctuary:** <https://cityofsanctuary.org/> 



Joyful Celebrations for  
Chinese New Year at Allerton  
CE Primary School.