

Since 2021, LCI has funded a project to engage with Leeds schools to achieve their 'Schools of Sanctuary' award, with a celebration event hosted at Leeds Civic Hall by the Lord Mayor during Refugee Week. Leeds Church Institute supported the following Leeds-based schools over the last three years to achieve the Schools of Sanctuary award:

**2022: Lawnswood School and John Smeaton Academy**

**2023: Allerton CoE Primary and Leeds City Academy**

**2024: St Stephen's CoE, Abbey Grange CoE, Woodhouse Grove Methodist, Christ Church Upper Armley CoE, Co-op Academy Harehills**

This funded scheme of work has now come to an end. Leeds Church Institute trustees and staff have evaluated the impact of this funded project, and we are thankful to our trustee Canon Ann Nicholl for the following statement:

**“Leeds Church Institute provided funding for a one day per week Schools of Sanctuary worker for two years, with an extension. This funding came to an end in July 2024. All schools involved with this piece of work have been notified that the funded one day per week support had ended. After a period of consultation in August and September 2024 with Leeds-based refugee and asylum seeker support organisations and individuals (including churches, schools, colleges and third sector organisations) we have been able to assess the impact of our involvement with Schools of Sanctuary Awards.**

**Listening to stakeholders in the city, supported by Leeds City of Sanctuary, we realise there is a need to work in a more planned and coordinated way. We are in the process of recruiting a new Director to lead our next three-year strategy at Leeds Church Institute, and we will take time between now and January 2025 to discern if we will develop any further partnerships to enable this stream of work in Leeds going forward. We will inform schools who have contacted us of this timeline and direct their enquiries to the national Schools of Sanctuary website for advice, guidance and resources on the award process. Our next step will be to make an announcement in January 2025 once the new Director of Leeds Church Institute is in post. Leeds Church Institute will not be providing support for the Schools of Sanctuary work stream in the interim.”**

For information on the Schools of Sanctuary Award process, please [visit the website for the national 'Schools of Sanctuary' scheme](#). Whilst it is not possible for Leeds schools to work towards the award currently, City of Sanctuary UK offers a range of supporting resources and unique opportunities that are freely available to any UK school to support their efforts to build a culture of welcome.