

Working with Refugees

A guide for Bradford Schools 2023/24



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About this guide

This guide has been created to support schools in Bradford to welcome new pupils who are part of a Refugee Resettlement Programme.

The purpose of this document is threefold:

1. To provide schools with an overview of the programme, including how refugees are resettled and the processes and organisations involved.
2. To inform schools about the funding available to support pupils on this programme and how to access it.
3. To share good practice on welcoming new pupils to school and provide contact details of local support available.



Current resettlement programmes: An overview

The **United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)** reaffirms the UK's ongoing commitment to refugee resettlement, which continues to be an important component of the UK's humanitarian response. Under the UKRS, the UK will continue to offer a safe and legal route to vulnerable refugees in need of protection. Resettled refugees are granted Indefinite Leave to Remain and refugee status on arrival in the UK. The Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS), and the Gateway Protection Programme (GPP) are all ended and consolidated within the UKRS.

The **Ukrainian Family Scheme** allows people from Ukraine to join family members in the UK, or extend their stay, in the UK for up to 3 years. The **Homes for Ukraine (HfU)** scheme allows Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if sponsored by a UK household. UK sponsors/Hosts have committed to provide accommodation for a minimum of 6 months. Guests eligible under the HfU are issued with a visa ahead of travel to the UK and upon arrival, they receive a biometric residence permit that confirms their status and rights in the UK. Guests under HfU are able to live, work and access benefits, healthcare and education for up to 3 years. The **Ukraine Extension Scheme** visa allows Ukrainian people or close family members of a Ukrainian to stay in the UK for up to 3 years.

The UK formally opened the **Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)** on 6 January 2022 and will prioritise the resettlement of those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women's rights, freedom of speech, and rule of law; and vulnerable people, including women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups at risk (including ethnic and religious minorities and LGBT+). This is in addition to the **Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme** which has already settled thousands of Afghans who have worked with the UK government, and their families. The ARAP is a separate scheme to the ACRS and offers Afghan nationals who have worked for or alongside the UK government, and meet the ARAP criteria, relocation in the UK along with a partner, dependent children and additional family members who are also deemed eligible for relocation. Anyone who is resettled through the ACRS or ARAP will receive indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK, and will be able to apply for British citizenship after 5 years in the UK under existing rules. Those already in the UK with limited leave under the ARAP or the previous scheme for Afghan Locally Employed Staff, granted prior to 2

September 2021, can apply for indefinite leave to remain at any time during their period of limited leave (five years).

Sources of support for families in Bradford



Horton Housing plays a key role in providing specialist support to refugees who are resettled in Bradford. When they arrive in Bradford, they are supported by a support worker from Horton Housing who assists them in all aspects of integration into their new communities including:

- orientation on arrival
- case worker support
- family support
- housing support
- access to health services
- education and ESOL
- banking services
- welfare benefits
- help accessing other mainstream services
- community development

UKRS, ARAP and ACRS receive 1 year intensive support, and then a further 2 years of less intense support as they work towards independence.

HFU will receive 1 year support.

You can contact the Horton Housing on (01274) 370689

solace
surviving exile and persecution

Solace is a Leeds-based charity (accessible in Bradford) which provide free therapeutic support for children, their family, and their place of education through their Children and Families Wellbeing Project . This support is available for

refugee families who have arrived as part of the UNHCR Resettlement programmes (including the Vulnerable Persons, Vulnerable Children's and the UK Resettlement Programme) with children, aged from 0 to 19, regardless of the severity of their symptoms (no lower limit). Solace provide One-to-one trauma and attachment informed therapeutic support, Group work in schools and colleges, Therapeutic support for parents, Individual consultation and training for staff and case workers. They also provide a weekly wellbeing group and 1:1 psychological therapy.

[Bradford | Solace \(solace-uk.org.uk\)](http://Bradford | Solace (solace-uk.org.uk))



Refugee Action in Bradford offer 1:1 support as well as groups activities for refugees and asylum seekers under their Children and Families Services which is split into 3 sub projects: Families Early Help project, Asylum Crisis Project and The Brave Project. Advice and Wellbeing is another of their services which they deliver in partnership with Solace. Refugee Action provides specialist OISC immigration advice to asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers and refugees in combination with wellbeing support from Solace. They also provide signposting and referral support to help prevent mental health crises from developing. As part of this there is a wellbeing group for adults.

They run a weekly Welcome group and a weekly wellbeing group for adults. Contact below for update details about the sessions.

[Bradford Asylum Services - Refugee Action \(refugee-action.org.uk\)](http://refugee-action.org.uk)

Schools of Sanctuary



Bradford Schools of Sanctuary support schools in Bradford with training, resources and opportunities for staff and students. They also help schools to apply for the Schools of Sanctuary award, to celebrate the values, ethos and achievements of schools who proactively work to be a place of welcome to refugee and asylum seeking children and their families. The award is free and all schools in Bradford are eligible to apply.

To find out more and book training and workshops go to <https://bradford.cityofsanctuary.org/sanctuary-in-schools> or email schools@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org

Bradford City of Sanctuary



Bradford is a City of Sanctuary. Bradford is the diverse face of modern Britain and has a long history of welcoming migrants from all parts of the world, particularly Eastern Europe and South Asia. Their ancestors and communities provide us with a rich heritage of cultures. **Bradford City of Sanctuary** identify gaps in support, connect people to places, promote and host events as well as advocate and educate for a fair, equal and diverse society.

The Local Authority has also been awarded **Local Authority of Sanctuary** and will continue to build upon existing work and develop it in line with the Council's Equality Objectives and Equality Plan. The plan promotes inclusion and equality for all people in the district and sees the inclusion of refugees as a key area to address to ensure they have equality of opportunity to progress into employment and education and engage in social mixing within the district and that they feel safe.

This work contributes to the Bradford For Everyone Strategy delivered by Stronger Communities in the Council's Department of Place which aims to ensure the district is place where everyone can get on, get along, get involved and feel safe.



AUGB Bradford Ukrainian Community Centre.

Bradford Ukrainian Community Centre provides a space for the Ukrainian Community to engage in social and community events, including Ukrainian School & Ukrainian Youth Association. The Community Centre run a weekly coffee and welcome morning, hosted every

Saturday morning from 10am-12pm at Bradford Ukrainian Community Centre. 'Dobryi Ranok' (Good morning) is open to all, especially displaced Ukrainians, their families and sponsors, with an opportunity to meet new friends from across our community and city.

[AUGB Bradford Branch](#)

Many of the children and families arriving in the UK who have fled the conflict in Ukraine, have experienced trauma; the **Barnado's Ukrainian Support Helpline** staffed by English, Ukrainian and Russian speakers, can offer support - help and advice is available on a range of issues.



To contact Barnardo's free **helpline, telephone: 0800 148 8586**, Monday to Friday, from 10.00am to 8.00pm, or Saturday, 10.00am to 3.00pm. Alternatively, email: ukrainiansupport@barnardos.org.uk.

Bradford College

Working together to transform lives

Bradford College is a diverse, welcoming and nurturing college. A College of Sanctuary that seek to enhance their community colleges message that they're here to support

and transform lives. Bradford College are committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all, especially those seeking sanctuary. Asylum seekers and refugees are important citizens of our great city adding language, culture and skills to our communities.

For more information contact call 01274 088 088 or email hello@bradfordcollege.ac.uk
<https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/support/students/safeguarding-support/welfare-support/>



The University of Bradford is proud to be a University of Sanctuary and is continually looking at the best ways to welcome asylum seekers and refugees into the University community. There are specific schemes and means of support for Refugee and Asylum seeking students available.

Follow the link for more details: [Asylum seeker and refugee students - Undergraduate - University of Bradford](#)

Education Access Team

The Education Access Team offer a service to families who are new to the Bradford district who may need additional support to secure initial access to education. Alongside supporting the family to secure initial access to education, we offer support, advice and signposting based on the family's wider support needs.

Refugee and asylum seeker children have the same entitlement to education as other children in the UK however they can often find it harder to access education due to a number of barriers which may include language, past experience and trauma. The Education Access Team aim to support refugee and asylum seekers into education through practical support and advice. We are also on hand to provide advice and support to schools who have refugee and asylum seeker children on roll.

Most children start reception full-time in September after their fourth birthday. For example, if your child turns 4 in June, they'll usually start school in September that same year. Children reach compulsory school age on 31 December, 31 March or 31 August after turning 5 (whichever comes first). Children must stay in full-time education from reaching compulsory school age until they reach school leaving age. School leaving age which is the last Friday in June if the child will turn 16 by the end of the summer holidays.

Referrals can be made by professionals or families themselves. Please call us on 01274 439393 or email education.access@bradford.gov.uk

Interpreting and translation

Where an interpreter is required to support communication, schools and other professionals within Bradford MDC can book interpreters through [Enable2](#) and translation through [Supreme Linguistics](#).

The Education Access Team will fund the provision of an interpreter to attend the initial admission meetings for children who are new to the country and require an interpreter. Please contact us or speak to the allocated Education Access Officer for further information.

Free School Meals (FSM)

The Education Access team only support with FSM enquiries for asylum seekers. If you have any other queries relating to FSM, please contact 01274 432772.

School admissions and access to funding

School Admissions

The Admissions Team process the annual allocations to Reception and Year 7, in-year admissions and also the appeals procedure. Advice and guidance is offered to parents and other agencies about the availability of school places and all other admission and appeal related enquiries.

The team also provides advice and guidance concerning current and new legislation about admissions and ensures that statutory responsibilities are carried out in accordance with the schools admission and appeal codes.

School Admissions Team can be contacted Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm on 01274 439200.

There are some schools in Bradford that manage their own application and they should be contacted direct. You can find these listed online [here](#).

Applications forms for schools where Bradford School Admissions manage their applications can be found online. There are different processes to follow dependent on the age of your child and the time you are applying. Full details are online.

The School Admissions Code identifies that Fair Access Protocols may only be used to place the certain groups of vulnerable and/or hard to place children, where they are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, and it can be demonstrated that reasonable measures have been taken to secure a place through the usual in-year admission procedures. Refugees and Asylum Seekers are identified as a group that may be considered under FAP where necessary.

Apply for free school meals

Refugee families may be entitled to apply for free school meals for their children if their parent or guardian receive certain income-related benefits or they have just started working less than 16 hours a week. For further information about free school meals including eligibility and to apply please go to [Free School Meals | Bradford Council](#)
To apply for Free School Meals via this route, families will need a National Insurance number. This will allow them to complete the online application. Until then schools should provide free school meals from the centralised funding they receive.

Asylum Seeker families apply via the Education Access Team, please see page 11.

Pupils eligible for free school meals will also be eligible for Pupil Premium meaning schools can access this grant to support with improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Education funding

Funding is allocated to schools who admit children who have arrived through a Resettlement Scheme. The funding is provided to schools for the sole purpose of supporting the child to settle into their new education environment.

Suggestions of how schools should spend the funding are as follows but not limited to:

- School uniform, including shoes, coat, PE kit (summer / winter), training shoes
- Essential equipment, school bag, book bag, stationary, first language / English dictionary
- Bus fares where the family are not within walking distance and not entitled to a free bus pass
- Fruit, snack and milk for primary age children
- Interpreters, to ensure essential information is understood by parents / carers
- Translation of important documents such as letters home
- Settling in support with an interpreter to help children and young people understand the environment quickly
- Teaching Assistant / Language Assistant withdrawal or classroom support
- School trips and residential stays
- Opportunities to improve cultural awareness and British Values
- Counselling / Emotional Wellbeing Support
- SEND support

Full details and terms of the payments are issued to schools upon allocation of the funds. Funding is administered by the Education Access team who can be contacted on 01274 43939 or education.access@bradford.gov.uk

Education in Afghanistan and Ukraine

Afghanistan

Primary and secondary education in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, there are 2 types of education: regular education and Islamic education. On this page, we only describe regular education.

Pupils are educated in Dari or Pashto. It is compulsory for children aged 6 to 15, so from primary and lower secondary education.

Primary education

In Afghanistan, primary education is for pupils aged 6 to 12.

Duration: 6 years (grade 1- grade 6).

Usually all pupils follow the same subjects but there may be small differences depending on the region within Afghanistan. In the final year, pupils take an entrance exam for secondary education.

Secondary education

Secondary education lasts 6 years. Students aged 12 to 18 complete 2 stages:

- 1) Lower secondary education
- 2) Upper secondary education.

The language of instruction is Dari or Pashto.

1) Lower secondary education

Lower secondary education is for students aged 12 to 15.

Duration: 3 years (grade 7– grade 9).

Content: general education subjects, such as Dari, Pashto, mathematics, biology and a foreign language.

2) Upper secondary education

Upper secondary education is for students aged 15 to 18. At the end of upper secondary education, students take exams for the 12th Grade Graduation Certificate.

Source: [Primary and secondary education - Afghanistan | Nuffic](#)

Ukraine

Elementary education

Elementary education starts at the age of six and is four years in length. The cycle is further subdivided into two phases: A basic phase 1 (grades one and two) that focuses

on adaptation to school through play, while phase 2 (grades three and four) focuses on developing responsibility and independence. Children are admitted to school based on their place of residence. Each school serves a specific geographic area and guarantees seats for all school-age children residing in the area. There are no separate entrance examinations.

The curriculum includes reading, writing, mathematics, physical education, nature, art, and music. Not all courses at this level are graded, but grade four concludes with a state examination that measures performance in Ukrainian (or another native language), reading, and mathematics.

Basic secondary education

Basic secondary education lasts five years (grades five to nine) and is open to all pupils who successfully completed elementary education. The general core curriculum includes subjects like Ukrainian language and literature, foreign language, history, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, physical education, music, and art. Assessment and promotion are primarily based on examinations. At the end of ninth grade, students sit for final state exams. Those who pass are awarded a “certificate of completion of basic secondary education” (svidotstvo pro bazovu zagal’nu serednyu osvitu). The grading scale used at all levels of schooling is the 12-point scale.

Upper Secondary Education

Students will be able to choose between academic and professional tracks studied at either academic or professional lyceums. Within these tracks, students study a general academic core curriculum in addition to specialising in academic or vocational fields. While studies in the academic track are designed to prepare students for further university education, the professional streams prepare students for employment as well as admission to higher education. It should be noted, however, that not all schools offer specialisation tracks. and that many students presently attend general secondary programs.

Source: [Education in Ukraine \(wes.org\)](http://wes.org)

Resources and support for schools



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

All 10,000 of our lessons – including video captions and worksheets – can be auto-translated into various languages including Arabic, Urdu and Ukrainian <https://www.thenational.academy/>



Enable make it easy for NHS, local authorities, schools and other organisations to help non-English-speaking people and communities via rapid online booking of interpreters. With over 140 languages and dialects, professionals can connect in seconds to a highly qualified linguist by remote telephone and video interpreting, or traditional face-to-face interpreting.



LanguageLine offers on-site interpreting, on-demand telephone and video interpreting and written translations. For more details:

translations@languageline.co.uk 0845-310-9900

www.languageline.com/.../uk



BBC Children in Need also have a bank of resources and organisations that can help with talking to children about Ukraine and Russia (mostly aimed at UK children, but useful to share) <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/changing-lives/useful-resources-for-talking-about-ukraine-and-russia/>



Twinkl (resources for Primary School aged children) has a number of Ukrainian Dual Language Resources: [Ukrainian Dual Language https://www.twinkl.co.uk/](https://www.twinkl.co.uk/)

Ukrainian Language Resources for children: www.bilingualkidsrock.com



Through generating and applying evidence, The Bell Foundation aims to improve policy, practice and systems to enable children, adults and communities in the UK that speak English as an Additional Language (EAL) to overcome disadvantage through language education.

On their website, they make available learning resources, evidence and policy. [The Bell Foundation - Changing lives and overcoming exclusion through language education \(bell-foundation.org.uk\)](http://bell-foundation.org.uk)



The British Red Cross provide free teaching resources and lesson plans for Geography, Citizenship and PSHE to help young people challenge assumptions about migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, and to develop mutual respect, empathy and understanding. [Refugees & migration teaching resources | Free humanitarian materials \(redcross.org.uk\)](http://redcross.org.uk)

DfE has links [Resources to help support children and young people arriving from Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Sharing good practice

The following information is not an exhaustive list, but it is a list of some of the things that schools can do and put in place to welcome new refugee pupils.

Understanding

Having an understanding of the key challenges that refugee families might've faced can help schools in planning how they best support students. Things to consider are traumatic or distressing experiences in their country of origin, during their journey and on arrival to the UK, grief, anxiety, isolation, loneliness and prior educational experiences.

Information sharing

Communication methods within school, and between school and home, need to take account of the fact that parents may have limited English. It's also helpful for parents to have the name and contact details of the relevant person they should contact in school if they need help.

Welcome guide

A clear welcome guide, ideally in their home language, for parents or guardians which might include useful information about homework, term dates, school times and attendance, school map, school rules/ values and uniforms etc.

Entitlements

Parents may need to be made aware of entitlements for their children such as; uniforms, free school meals and free ear, sight and hearing tests.

Adjustment period

An adjustment period may be useful for some pupils if they have been out of education for a while and consideration may need to be given to phased starts, integrating into mainstream lessons etc.

Buddy system

Buddies can show the new pupil where the toilets are, explain the canteen system and help them navigate the school building. When finding a buddy take into account cultural background, language and/or dialects where possible (being mindful that not all pupils will establish friendly relationships with others from their home country).

Assessments

Arrange for the child to be observed and assessed informally from day one and then formal assessments to begin 2-3 weeks later. The Bell Foundation have a wealth of resources on EAL assessment.

Celebrate linguistic diversity

Whilst many pupils may need English Language support, remember to promote and celebrate skills in linguistic diversity.

Bilingual support

Where possible, use a bilingual teaching assistant to support the child in class.

Useful contacts

School Admissions

Email: schooladmissions@bradford.gov.uk

Education Access Team

Email: education.access@bradford.gov.uk

Tel: 01274 439393

Refugee Education Access Officers

Email: ransome.oginni@bradford.gov.uk,

richard.fox@bradford.gov.uk

mohammed.rahman@bradford.gov.uk