

Working with Refugees

A guide for Bradford Schools 2022/23



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I. 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.



2. Current Resettlement Programmes: an overview

The Syrian Resettlement Programme (SRP) is a scheme aimed at resettling vulnerable Syrian refugees residing in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region; in practice this means refugees residing in countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq. Once individuals and families have been selected for resettlement, they undergo health and security screening and some level of cultural orientation (where they are given some basic information about the city they will be resettled in).

The UK formally opened the **Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)** on 6 January 2022. The government will resettle more than 5,000 people in the first year and up to 20,000 over the coming years. 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. Anyone who is resettled through the ACRS 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.

The **Ukrainian Family Scheme** allows people from Ukraine to join family members in the UK. The **Homes for Ukraine** scheme allows named Ukrainian nationals to be sponsored by UK households. Hosts will have committed to provide free accommodation for at least 6 months and guests under this scheme will need to meet security checks prior to being issued with a visa that will entitle them to live, work and access benefits, healthcare and education in the UK for up to 3 years.

Depending on the scheme, the local authority receives funding from the Home Office for each family resettled in their locality. The funding can be used to provide resettled refugees with adequate furnished accommodation, integration support casework (usually provided by Horton Housing) and access to ESOL classes for adults and social care needs.



3. 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

You can contact Horton Housing on (01274) 370689

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Solace is a Leeds-based charity (accessible in Bradford) which provides psychotherapy, complementary therapies and advocacy support:

<http://www.solace-uk.org.uk/>

Solace also have the Child and Family Wellbeing Support service (CFWS). This provides therapeutic work for resettled children, family

therapy and parenting classes, and support to teachers and staff in schools on the SRP. info@solace-uk.org.uk also see leaflet on page 10.



Refugee Action in Bradford offers support to families going through the asylum system by advocating around asylum support issues (housing, asylum financial support, etc), referrals for legal advice, destitution support, as well as Early Help support for complex family needs.

They run a weekly Welcome group Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30, St. Stephens Church, BD5 7BH and a weekly wellbeing group for adults.

To make an enquiry or referral please contact bradfordreferrals@refugee-action.org.uk or ring 07703608969:

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 and Ukrainian Community Centre.

Drop-in sessions available

The address is Ukrainian Community Centre, 169 Legrams Lane, Bradford, BD7 2EA

The purpose of the drop-in is two-fold:

- A social space for Ukrainians to connect with each other - to be together is a safe space, to speak their own language to comfort one another and grieve together. A meal will be provided.
- A supportive space for Ukrainians to access advice and services - the drop-in will have advisors to help refugees' access health care, English lessons, benefits and other services.

Many of the children and families arriving in the UK who have fled the conflict in Ukraine, have experienced trauma; the **Barnardo'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 are here to enhance our community colleges message that we're here to support and transform lives. We 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. We are proud to be a college that helps its students, staff and wider community to understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary. We are also immensely proud of the achievements our sanctuary seeking students make.

For more information contact here: 01274 088 088 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](#)



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**Children
and Families
Wellbeing Project**

**Support for Schools
and Colleges**



Do you have refugee students who have arrived in the UK through the UNHCR Resettlement Programme?

Solace provide free therapeutic support for children, their family, and their place of education

This specialist 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).

Contact your local Solace therapist to discuss your concerns and see if we can help.

- Leeds: **Philippa Kempe** • philippa@solace-uk.org.uk
- Wakefield: **Agnes Ndebel** • agnes@solace-uk.org.uk
- North Yorkshire: **Hernan Sosa-Canal** • hernan@solace-uk.org.uk
- Bradford: **Mona Theodosius** • mo@solace-uk.org.uk
- Kirklees and Calderdale: **Brian Nilsson** • brian@solace-uk.org.uk
- Hull and Mid East Yorkshire: **Gayle Clark** • gayle@solace-uk.org.uk
- Scarborough & NE Yorkshire: **Rosemary Palmeira** • rosemary@solace-uk.org.uk
- Lincs & SE Yorkshire: **Andrew Dolan** • andrewdolan@solace-uk.org.uk
- Clinical Director **Anne Burghgraef** • anne@solace-uk.org.uk

Before making a referral please ensure that you have discussed this with the young person and their family and have permission to contact us.

General office contact details

tel: **07899 304 905**

email: **info@solace-uk.org.uk** • website: **www.solace-uk.org.uk**

Her English is ok, but she seems sad and not able to learn

She isn't making friends and seems so quiet and alone

He is so anxious and distracted. He is distracting everyone else

He seems to be exhausted the whole time, and can't concentrate

His anger is so unpredictable, intense and scary



Children and Families
Wellbeing Support



Migration Yorkshire

Charity no. 1104507 Company no. 4733478

Education Access Team

The Education Access team support families from Central and Eastern Europe, Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Travellers and vulnerable groups with access to education

Families can self-refer by contacting us on 01274 439393. They also can attend our drop-ins, which are held across the district; contact the Access Team to find out more. They can also be referred by any professional on behalf of the family – see below.

The service also supports and signposts its client group, taking into account the wider family support needs including SEN, Benefits and Early Help. Specialist staff in the team advocate on behalf of families who are experiencing barriers in accessing appropriate education settings. There are workers within the team who speak languages including Slovak, Polish, Czech and Hungarian but we can also access most languages through our partner, Enable2.

Interpreting and translation

For any queries relating to interpreting and translation, please email education.access@bradford.gov.uk or call 01274 439393.

Free School Meals (FSM)

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

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 a number of barriers which may include language, past experience and trauma. The Access Team aim to support refugee and asylum seekers into education through practical support and advice. The Access Team is also on hand to provide advice and support to schools who have refugee and asylum seeker children on roll. Please see our 'Quick [guide to refugees and asylum seekers](#)'.

How to make a referral for support with access to education?

Referrals to the Access Team can be made by any professional on behalf of the family by completing the [referral form](#) and sending it to education.access@bradford.gov.uk

Please ensure that families have consented to the referral, where possible getting [consent to sharing information](#) form signed by the family prior to making a referral.

4. School admissions and access to funding

School Admissions

Bradford Council's School Admissions Team have responsibility for school admissions.

School placements

There are some schools that deal with their own admissions directly. Schools that fall into the below category may do this:

Academies/Free schools
Voluntary-aided school
Trust/Foundation schools

School applications can be sent it to the School Admissions Team by email: schooladmissions@bradford.gov.uk. More information can be found at <https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/content/admissions/admissions>

The School Admissions Team will then look to place at a local school through normal admissions. If this is not possible (because the requested school/s are full) we use our Fair Access admission route to agree the best match school. The School Admissions Team will explain this process.

School admission and free school meal applications are submitted through this online Portal. <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>

Apply for free school meals

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 our website <https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/content/free-school-meals>

To apply for Free School Meals families will need a National Insurance number. They will receive this when they register for Universal Credit. This will allow them to complete the online application. Until then schools should provide free school meals from the centralised funding they receive.

Education funding

Funding is also available for schools to support each resettled child of school age and will be paid directly to the school by the Local Authority's Education Access Finance team. Schools should email Education.access@bradford.gov.uk with details of any children that start at their school that they believe would be eligible for the funding.

5. Education in Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine

Syria:

Prior to the conflict, Syria had a strong education system with free education for children aged 6-18, as well as many free universities. As of 2000, education in Syria became compulsory for children up until the 9th grade (aged 15/16).

Children arriving in Bradford under the SRP are likely to have different levels of education depending on their age when the conflict began. Some children will have had a number of years of education, but may have been out of school for some time. Younger pupils may not have received any schooling at all. It will be helpful to look at their individual pupil profiles for more information about each child's educational history.

Useful information about education in Syria:

- The national curriculum in Syria is taught in Arabic. Core subjects which are taught to all grades include: Arabic, English, Maths, Science and Health, Art, PE, RE and Social Studies.
- In addition to those subjects, secondary schools will also teach Philosophy, History, Geography and Politics.
- Vocational secondary education is also available at technical schools. Examples include joinery, plumbing, nursing, hairdressing, dressmaking, tourism and computing.
- English has been taught in primary schools since 2000. French and Russian are offered in some schools as third languages.
- Religious Education is taught, but during these lessons children only learn about their own religion.
- Primary schools are usually male and female mixed. Secondary schools are largely single-sex. It is helpful to be aware that some families may be uncomfortable with daughters attending mixed-sex secondary schools.
- Generally, school uniforms are mandatory in Syrian schools.

Afghanistan:

Afghanistan's education system has been devastated by more than three decades of sustained conflict. For many of the country's children, completing primary school remains a distant dream, especially in rural areas and for girls, despite recent progress in raising enrolment. Under the previous government all aged girls were able to access school, however since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, officials under the Islamic Emirate have temporarily suspended formal education to teenage girls.

Primary Education

Primary education runs from grades 1 to 6. Children typically begin school between the ages of six and eight. The primary curriculum is consistent nationwide; however, teachers can tailor it to the local content. Primary education is divided into two cycles.

The first cycle covers grades 1 to 3, and the curriculum includes subjects such as religious studies, first language (Dari or Pashtu, depending on the region), mathematics, arts, and physical education. The second cycle includes grades 4 to 6. The curriculum covers the same subjects as the first cycle, plus additional subjects such as natural sciences, history, geography, and a secondary language (Dari or Pashtu, depending on the region).

At the end of grade 6, students must pass an examination to gain admission to lower secondary education [Maktabeh Motevasteh]. At this point, they may opt to pursue a religious studies track, or a more general education track. The vast majority of students pursue the latter.

Secondary Education

Secondary education includes two three-year cycles. The first cycle, from grades 7 to 9, is referred to as lower secondary education, and the second cycle, from grades 10 to 12, is referred to as higher secondary education.

The curriculum of the first cycle includes subjects such as religious studies, local languages, mathematics, natural sciences, social studies, foreign languages (English, German, French and Russian), and physical education.

Students who pass the examination at the end of grade 9 can continue to higher secondary education. (Upon completion of grade 9, students may opt to pursue technical and secondary vocational education, rather than higher secondary education.) The curriculum of higher secondary education is determined by whether the students choose to focus on natural sciences stream or social studies stream. No matter which streams the students take, they need to pass the graduation exam to be awarded the 12th grade graduation certificate.

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.

6. Support for schools taking Ukrainian refugees



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

Oak National Academy

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

All 10,000 of our lessons – including video captions and worksheets – can be auto-translated into Ukrainian



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) Useful resources for talking about Ukraine and Russia - <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/>

Links to educational resources for Ukrainian children Free educational resources for Ukrainian children - Education without backpacks www.obr.education

Ukrainian Language Resources for children: www.bilingualkidsrock.com

[Bookmark Boxes for Ukraine](#): Bookmark Reading have put together a welcome box (including a Lenovo tablet) for Ukrainian children aged 5-9, follow the link here register your interest to receive Bookmark Boxes for Ukraine: <https://www.bookmarkreading.org/schools>

7. 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.

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 for parents or guardians can 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 need some quiet days in school first before attending lessons.

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).

The Young Interpreters Programme involves training pupils who speak more than one language to interpret for new arrivals at school and help them settle in.

Assessments

Arrange for the child to be observed and assessed informally from day one.

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

Admissions to schools

Email: schooladmissions@bradford.gov.uk

Education Access Team

Email: education.access@bradford.gov.uk

Refugee Education Officer

Email: ransome.oginni@bradford.gov.uk