

Working with Refugees

A guide for York Schools 2022/23



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I. About this guide

This guide has been created to support schools in York 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 United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) is a scheme aimed at resettling vulnerable Syrian, Iraqi and Sudanese 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 (provided by Refugee Council) and access to ESOL classes for adults and social care needs.

3. Sources of support for families in York



Refugee Council plays a key role in providing specialist support to Syrian refugees who are resettled across the Yorkshire and Humber region. When Syrians arrive in the UK, they are supported by an integration caseworker from Refugee Council who assists them in all aspects of integration into their new communities including:

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

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

You can contact the Refugee Council on 0113 2449404

solace
surviving exile and persecution

Solace is a Leeds-based charity 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 at the back of this booklet.



RAY (Refugee Action York) works with **ALL** refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from within and around the City of York. They work with individuals and families assessing their needs and then delivering services or referring to other specialist services where appropriate. Through providing this support they hope to empower individuals to assist them in rebuilding their lives. Services include:

- Homework help, by Zoom or in person
- Youth club for 11-18s – alternate Monday evenings at Moor Lane Youth Club, Dringhouses Occasional residential/day trips
- Sports sessions for 11-18s – alternate Thursdays at York St John's Sports Centre, Haxby Road
- Mentoring – one-to-one mentoring for 11-18s
- The Hub - a social event for the whole family, one Sunday a month at Clifton Green Primary School
- Mother tongue language classes (currently Arabic and Turkish) – primary school, GCSE & A Level
- Coffee morning – every Wednesday 10-12 at York St John's University, including English classes
- English conversation- one-to-one or small English conversation groups led by trained volunteers Held
- Befriending - encouraging and supporting isolated people to get out into the community, become involved and make friends

RAY's services are open to ALL refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and not only those on official resettlement programmes.



Learning Skills Employability



English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) classes: Free ESOL classes are available with York Learning for refugee parents on any of the above schemes Families are to contact the Curriculum Manager Natalie.Peacock@york.gov.uk to arrange an initial assessment.

York City of Sanctuary



York is a City of Sanctuary and the UK's first Human Rights City. Its history is criss-crossed with other cultures, from the Romans to the Vikings in past times, to the cosmopolitan city of today. Since 2016, this Charity has played a vital role in supporting and welcoming people who come here seeking a new life.

York City of Sanctuary promote an environment of understanding and compassion within the city. They work closely with regional and national institutions and places of education, including support for Universities of Sanctuary and Schools of Sanctuary. At a grassroots level, they support individuals and families who find themselves in York and are unable to return to their countries of origin. As well as assisting refugees who arrive in the city as part of government schemes, York City of Sanctuary works with our partners within the wider Yorkshire region.

york.cityofsanctuary.org

For an informal chat or advice email your telephone number to our Co-ordinator Paul: paul@yorkcos.org.uk

<https://cityofsanctuary.org/events/welcoming-refugee-children-advice-and-guidance-for-schools/>



YORK
CITYCHURCH

Drop-in for Ukrainian refugees at York City Church.

Every-other Thursday afternoon from 12.30pm - 2.30pm. Start on 21st April.

The address is York City Church, The Citadel, Gillygate, York YO31 7EA. See flyer for dates. 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 **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.

4. School admissions and access to funding

School Admissions

York City Council's Education team have responsibility for school admissions and receive the details of children's ages and addresses before their arrival.

School placements

Schools do not deal with admissions directly.

School applications are made via Parent Portal. Link and information can be found at www.york.gov.uk/admissions including a note is in the free text box under reasons for their preference school to advise that the child is on a formal refugee settlement scheme

Any linked support worker can let the School Admissions Team know the application needs to be made by emailing education@york.gov.uk with the child's full name dob and address

The Inclusion Team will organise the completion of the application from on behalf of the family and then link back with the support worker to gain parents signatures as consent for the application

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.

If the child is not on a formal settlement scheme:

If the child is not on a formal refugee settlement scheme applications go through the normal admissions process.

School admission and free school meal applications are submitted through this online Parent Portal. www.york.gov.uk/admissions

In Year applications are made when a child has already started school and when a move is required during the school year.

For further information or queries on applications email education@york.gov.uk or call 01904 551554 option 2.

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 www.york.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

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 CYC Schools Finance team. The rate for each child is detailed below and is dependent upon age. This funding is a one-off payment and should cover any additional educational needs for the child for the first 12 months.

Homes for Ukraine funding

- Early years (ages 2 to 4) - £3,000 Registered settings and schools
- Primary (ages 5 -11) - £6,580
- Secondary (ages 11-18) - £8,755

UKRS resettlement funding for other schemes including for Afghan and Syrian resettlement

Age of child upon arrival	Funding available
3-4 years	£2,250
5-18 years	£4,500



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 York 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:

All students go to school when they are 5 years old. Schools are free for all students and also books. School period is 12 years.

Students study different subjects like Dari, Pashto, English, Math, History, Geography, Art, Sports, Biology; about 15 subjects. After school finishes, all students try to pass the exam of university which is Kabul University. Only this university is free for students. They also have special uniform for students of school. The school time is 7am until 12pm and from 12pm until 4pm.

Every subject has special teacher and all students should read all subjects. If they don't read the teacher punishes them. Teachers also can hit them by ruler or stick. Girls and boys class are taught separately.

In Afghanistan, teacher goes to students classrooms and students stay in the same room. Boys can't have long hair and girls can't to have long nails each class are about 50 students.

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

York Education

The Educational Psychology Service has developed a bank of resources for schools and settings supporting Ukrainian refugees who have

arrived in York as a result of the war in Ukraine. It is located on the **York Education website: <https://www.yorkeducation.co.uk/plusv2/5425f956-0834-48cc-a5ad-706a1be13581>**

The resource bank includes:

- An **e-module** produced for schools and settings by York Educational Psychology Service. This can be shared at a staff meeting, is fully narrated and takes about 45 mins – 1 hour.
- A **booklist**, signposting to dual language Ukrainian-English books that can be purchased in the UK
- A **mind map** with some considerations for supporting refugees and asylum seekers
- A **series of leaflets** that can be shared with young people and adults. When sharing these leaflets, consideration should be given to how the information included in the leaflet might be received, and you should ensure that you stay with the young person/adult whilst they are reading the leaflet so that you can provide support if required. **The leaflets are available in both English and Ukrainian.**



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 obr.education

Ukrainian Language Resources for children: 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/register-for-a-bookmark-box-for-ukraine>



UNIVERSITY
of York

York Students in Schools (YSIS)

University of York are offering EAL support to local schools. This is a volunteer programme, placing students in classrooms. The scheme also works to create starter packs for students, develop learner guides for teachers and offers training to relevant school staff.

For more information contact YSIS@york.ac.uk

Useful contacts within CYC

CYC Community Involvement officer offers support and information to empower migrants regardless of their status to reach their full potential, through various projects including Our City Hub which will be based at York Explore, including signpost to existing services, volunteering, becoming a community interpreter or becoming more involvement in their local community. Contact via email Bianca.Vartic@york.gov.uk

Admissions to schools

Email: education@york.gov.uk

CYC Link Workers

Email: sarah.nicholson@york.gov.uk

CYC Support services

Email: Mora.scaife@york.gov.uk

CYC refugee support

Email: refugeesupport@york.gov.uk

CYC Customer Services

Phone: [01904 551550](tel:01904551550)

between 8.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday (9.30am to 5.30pm on Thursdays)

Early Years & Child Care

Email: fis@york.gov.uk

Homes for Ukraine

Email: HomesforUkraine@york.gov.uk

Interpreters can be booked through:

Work with York

Email: www.bookings@cytlimited.co.uk

7. Sharing good practice

The following information is not an exhaustive list, but is intended to provide initial guidance and advice for schools welcoming 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.



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