



What is a School of Sanctuary?

It is a school that is committed to being a safe and welcoming place for people whose lives were in danger in their own country. This means it is a school that helps its students, staff and wider community understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary and to extend a welcome to everyone as equal, valued members of the school community. It is a school that is proud to be a place of safety and inclusion for all.

School of Sanctuary is an initiative of Leeds City of Sanctuary, which aims to:

- promote positive attitudes within schools and their communities around people seeking sanctuary
- support schools to take positive steps and to be proud of being places of safety and inclusion for all
- recognise and celebrate schools that are committed to welcoming and supporting people seeking sanctuary

Why become a School of Sanctuary?

- creating a sense of safety and inclusion is beneficial to all members of the school community
- it is an opportunity to create a clearer understanding of what it means to seek sanctuary and to dispel some negative myths
- it provides learning opportunities around human rights, social justice, diversity and interdependence (Global Dimension concepts)
- it strengthens race equality and community cohesion work in school
- it is an opportunity to increase student voice and promote active citizenship
- it can augment your work to attain the Stephen Lawrence Education Standard or other inclusion initiative

How do we become a School of Sanctuary?

There are three simple principles to being a School of Sanctuary:

1. **Learn** about what it means to be seeking sanctuary
2. **Take positive action** to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion within your school and the wider community
3. **Share** your vision and achievements – be proud!

To become a School of Sanctuary you will need to evidence your work for each of the three principles. (We know that some schools have already undertaken some of these activities and we are happy to recognise and celebrate these.) Once we receive your evidence we will award you with an official certificate confirming you are a School of Sanctuary! We've put a few *suggested* activities and contacts below.

1. Learn about what it means to be seeking sanctuary

By creating awareness among students, teachers, school support and office staff, school management and governors about:

- Why people become refugees
- Where refugees in Leeds come from
- The difference between refugees and asylum-seekers and other migrants
- Why refugees come to Leeds
- Why some refugees in Leeds are destitute
- What the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is...

SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ Invite trained refugee speakers to deliver awareness-raising sessions and presentations based around their personal stories
- ❖ Invite trained facilitators to deliver regular workshops to staff around the issues facing refugees and asylum-seekers
- ❖ Use specialised resources to create activities to explore refugee issues

USEFUL CONTACTS

- ❖ **Olivier Nkuzimana** **RETAS (Refugee Employment and Training Advisory Service)** **(For school sessions)**
Advisor and School Work Coordinator
olivier@retasleeds.org.uk

- ❖ **Jessie Luvai** **Refugee Council 'Talks Team'** **(For school sessions)**
Project Coordinator
jessie.luvai@refugeecouncil.org.uk

- ❖ **Sally Kilner** **Red Cross** **(For school sessions)**
Area Youth Manager
skilner@redcross.org.uk

- ❖ **Hannah Nunn** **Leeds Development Education Centre** **(For [resources](#))**
Global Dimension in Schools Worker
hannah@leedsdec.org.uk

2. Take positive action to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion

- Within your school
- Within the wider community

SUGGESTIONS

a) Create a welcoming environment in school for students from different cultures

- ❖ Produce displays that illustrate the diversity of nationalities within the school
- ❖ Set up conversation classes for students who don't speak English as a first language
- ❖ Review your school policies and ethos statement to reflect a commitment to being a place of sanctuary

b) Incorporate the concepts into curricular (and/or extra-curricular) activities

- ❖ Carry out projects or plays around the theme of journeys / movement / sanctuary
- ❖ Plan art-based projects involving (or relating to) refugees [cf. <http://integrateleeds.wordpress.com>]
- ❖ Embed social justice issues around refugees and asylum-seekers into the PSHE, History, RE, Geography, Citizenship etc. curricula
- ❖ Encourage positive action through the school council and student voice work – e.g. Writing to MPs; raise awareness locally
- ❖ Support a local refugee charity (fundraise, volunteer for, support through social actions...)

c) Involve refugees and asylum seekers in the day-to-day life of the school:

- ❖ Take on an overseas-experienced 'refugee teacher' as a voluntary classroom assistant or bilingual support staff
- ❖ Develop a system for integrating new arrivals and their families into the school community

USEFUL CONTACTS

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|---------------------|---|--|
| ❖ Hannah Nunn | Leeds Development Education Centre
hannah@leedsdec.org.uk | (For curriculum support + resources) |
| ❖ Debbie Sturgess | Education Leeds
debbie.sturgess@educationleeds.co.uk | (For overseas teacher placements) |
| ❖ Eddie Ralston | Refugees into Teaching
edward.ralston@refugeecouncil.org.uk | (For overseas teacher placements) |
| ❖ Jenny Crawford | The Children's Society (LEAP Programme)
Jenny.Crawford@childrenssociety.org.uk | (Supporting refugee children in schools) |
| ❖ City of Sanctuary | www.cityofsanctuary.org/node/956 | (Local refugee charities' details) |

3. Share your vision and achievements

- With other schools
- With the wider local community

SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ Create links with other schools in Leeds that have a different cultural make-up. Arrange joint projects and/or visits as a way of increasing cross-cultural understanding between students
- ❖ Share your contact details with other schools aiming to become Schools of Sanctuary. Guide them through the process, sharing resources, lesson-plan ideas etc.
- ❖ Hold an event, showcasing the work you have done around becoming a School of Sanctuary

USEFUL RESOURCE - 'Just Linking' – A Guide to Linking Schools

Available from Leeds DEC: www.leedsdec.org.uk

EVIDENCE

To certificate you as a School of Sanctuary, we need you to submit evidence for each of the 3 principles above. Evidence of activity at any point in this academic year is acceptable. Here are some suggestions of the kind of evidence you could submit:

Principle 1

- Feedback from workshop participants (students / lunchtime support staff / others) saying what they learnt from the session
- Minutes from governors meeting in which School of Sanctuary initiative is raised

Principle 2

[Please provide evidence for at least 2 of the 3 strands within this Principle: a) environment; b) curriculum; c) day-to-day school life]

- Photographs; School policy statement (a)
- Examples of work carried out; students' comments about what they have learnt (b)
- Feedback on how your refugee teacher volunteer is fitting into the school (c)
- Case-study of how the school have worked to integrate a refugee student and their family (c)

Principle 3

- Newsletter articles sharing your positive work with parents and the wider community
- Minutes from cluster meetings where you have shared information and ideas with other local schools
- Testimonies or comments from staff or students saying what they have learned from (school linking) activities
- Photographs (where appropriate), lesson ideas, contact details, case-studies and other materials sent to us to be uploaded to the Leeds City of Sanctuary website for other schools to use and benefit from