

Together With Refugees

Schools Activity Pack



Thank you to the Schools of Sanctuary Network, Norwich and Hastings City of Sanctuary and Asylum Welcome for permission to use the photos in this pack.

About this pack

The Schools of Sanctuary team at City of Sanctuary UK and Together with Refugees have produced this Schools Activity Pack in collaboration to help schools learn more about the Together with Refugees campaign and get involved to show their support for people seeking sanctuary.

Using these suggested activities, schools can participate in a UK-wide movement that believes people seeking sanctuary should be welcomed and treated with fairness and compassion.

What's in this activity pack:

1. About Together With Refugees and Schools of Sanctuary
2. Context on the issues behind the Fair Begins Here campaign
3. Why and how your school should get involved

We have been bowled over by the creativity and impact of your schools activities over the past few years. Whatever you do, we'll be keen to know about it! So please let us know what you're planning and make sure you post pictures, details and links to your activities on social media using the hashtags #TogetherWithRefugees and #SchoolsOfSanctuary to keep us updated on what you're doing.



About Together With Refugees



Together With Refugees is [a national coalition](#) of hundreds of organisations big and small who believe in showing compassion for people fleeing war, persecution or violence and who want a kinder, fairer and more effective approach to supporting refugees in the UK. Coalition members include grassroots, community and refugee-led groups, international development charities, trade unions and faith groups.

Along with our partners we promote the use of the orange heart 🧡 as a symbol to represent compassion for people fleeing war and persecution. Inspired by the refugee nation flag and the colours of a lifebelt, the heart symbolises hope and kindness. By re-creating and displaying the heart in school, in the local community and on social media, you can show your support for refugees.

Read more on the [Together With Refugees website](#).

About Schools of Sanctuary

Schools of Sanctuary are a growing network of schools across the UK recognised by City of Sanctuary UK as embedding a culture of welcome and inclusion in school and raising awareness of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers.



Schools of Sanctuary UK support schools in receiving recognition by sharing resources, activities, events and advice and guidance to help schools engage in learning about sanctuary issues and develop inclusive policies and practice in school. In collaboration with Together With Refugees, Schools of Sanctuary UK have developed this Activity Pack to enable schools to think about why and how they can show their support for refugees. The suggested activities align with the processes of 'learn, embed and share' that schools must evidence to receive recognition as a School of Sanctuary.



You can learn more about the process of [becoming a School of Sanctuary](#) on the website.

Context on the issues behind the Fair Begins Here campaign

Last year, Together With Refugees brought together the UK's top children's charities refugee charities, faith leaders, medical bodies and others to call on the government to scrap plans to lock up refugee children as part of the Illegal Migration Bill – you can read more [here](#). We remain deeply concerned about the mental and physical impacts of the Government's asylum policies on both children and adults going through the system. As a nation, we must stand firm in our commitment to uphold children's rights and show care and compassion to any child in desperate need of protection.

Britain's refugee system has become ever-more uncaring, chaotic and costly. Our government is still trying to banish people fleeing persecution to Rwanda despite the highest court in the land ruling the scheme unlawful. Tens of thousands of people are stuck in limbo waiting for their refugee protection to be processed, separated from their families and barred from working.

These policies aren't working for refugees and they aren't working for local communities. That's why we have come together to call for something better.



Given the chance, we know communities across our country go the extra mile to welcome refugees – opening their homes, volunteering, speaking up, donating. And, given the chance, refugees do so much to enrich our society as they build new lives.

Fair Begins Here campaign

Fair Begins Here is the new campaign from Together With Refugees. It puts the theme of

fairness at its heart - because now is the moment for a fairer and more compassionate approach towards refugees in the UK.

Fair Begins Here aims to show that there is overwhelming support across society for a fair new plan for refugees, one that's rooted in fairness, justice and compassion - a positive alternative to the current uncaring, costly and chaotic refugee system.



The fair new plan for refugees has three key asks:

- Protection for all people seeking safety in the UK by restoring the right to asylum, upholding our commitments under international law, and ending the Rwanda scheme.
- An integrated welcome strategy for refugees, ensuring they have their asylum claims heard fairly and effectively and can rebuild their lives with fair welfare support, a decent home in the community, the right to work and language skills.
- Stronger international collaboration to forge positive, proactive responses to the global drivers of forced migration, increased responsibility-sharing and providing complementary safe routes for people fleeing war and persecution.

If you would like to learn more about how you can stand Together with Refugees in your local area, [contact Rebecca](#).

Schools Stand Together With Refugees

Schools are the centre of our communities: they play a powerful role in supporting refugee children and their families and fostering a culture of kindness and empathy. It's never been more important that schools stand Together with Refugees.

Why should schools get involved?

Schools have a statutory responsibility to protect and uphold children's rights. Unfortunately, current UK practice threatens them: new legislation means that anyone, including children, who arrives in the UK via an irregular route, such as a small boat across the Channel, would never be able to claim asylum here even if they have had to flee their home country due to persecution or conflict. The UNHCR has said that the bill "would amount to an asylum ban" as it would extinguish "the right to seek refugee protection in the United Kingdom for those who arrive irregularly, no matter how compelling their claim may be". It also includes extensive powers to detain people, including children, with no time limits, and to deport children seeking safety and separate them from parents if they arrive alone. Schools must stand up and speak out for the children seeking sanctuary in our schools and communities.

To make change, we know we need to foster a society in which we lead with understanding, kindness and humanity. These shared values are important to us all and schools play a vital role in fostering these principles amongst children and young people. Schools have a duty to challenge prejudice and discrimination and promote social cohesion. In the context of forced migration, this means offering children opportunities to learn about the factual realities of people seeking sanctuary, leading with and drawing on our shared values to encourage critical thinking.



How to get involved...

Step 1: Hear the stories of people seeking sanctuary

Learn about who people seeking sanctuary are, why they flee and their experiences in the UK. Some helpful resources include:

- [BBC Teach PSHE KS3: Seeking Refuge - Real life stories of young people fleeing their homelands](#)
- [My Bright Kite: Freedom of Voice Project 'I want to be an architect'](#)

You might also want to contact a local refugee organisation or City of Sanctuary group to speak at an assembly or classroom activity.

Step 2: Reflect and discuss

Help students develop their critical thinking and citizenship skills after learning about people seeking sanctuary through a guided reflection activity either in discussion or by writing. You should ask:

- What have you learnt about the experiences of people seeking sanctuary?
- How does this make you think and feel?
- How do you think people seeking sanctuary should be treated?

These discussions and reflections should be approached by drawing on shared values like kindness, humanity and equality. You might also want to reflect on children's rights.

Step 3: Follow Up Activities

Encourage students to develop their active citizenship skills by thinking about what they would like to do to show kindness to people seeking sanctuary and have their voice heard.

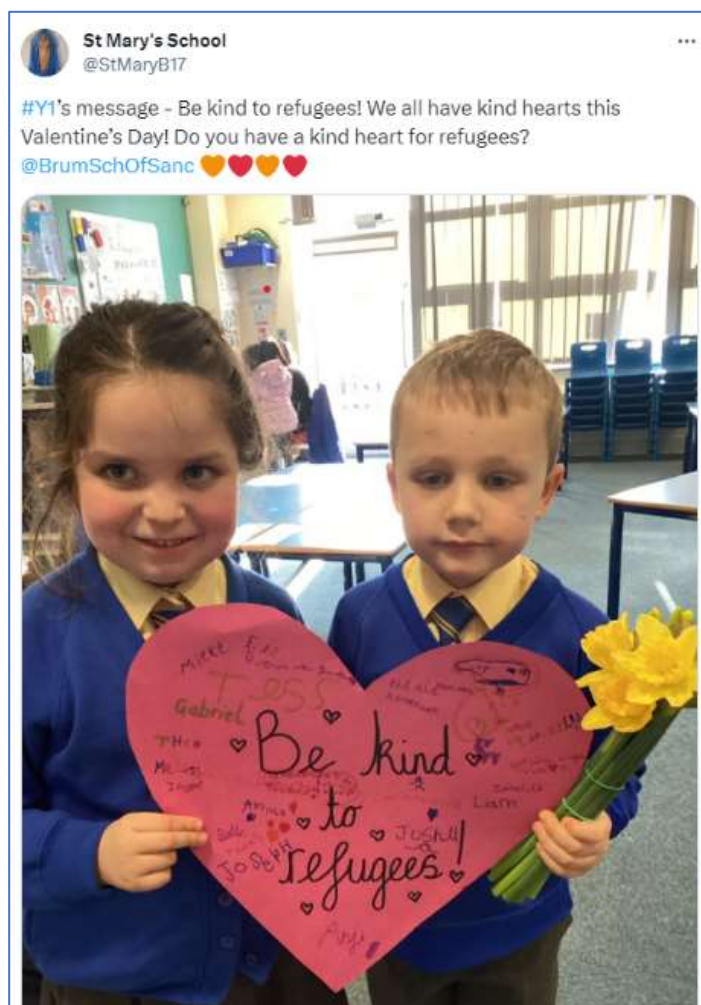
Suggested activities

1. Create a display of kindness by using the orange heart 'Together with Refugees' symbol. This could be a whole-class, or whole-school activity where students share their thoughts and feelings.
2. Raise money or support your local refugee charity - helping those seeking safety in your local area.
3. Show your heart for refugees on Valentine's Day. Every February, join hundreds of institutions, organisations and individuals across the country to send messages of love and solidarity to people seeking sanctuary in our communities. Get as creative as you can using the orange heart symbol. You can then display these cards at your school or send them to your local refugee organisation to share with people seeking sanctuary.

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Refugees are people
Just like me and you



4. Collaborate with another local institution like a faith setting, library, college or university to make a collective display of kindness for people seeking sanctuary – helping to send a clear message that our communities believe in welcome.



school community.

These activities have been developed in recognition that each school is different and may want to show their support for people seeking sanctuary in different ways. Your school can



do one of these suggested activities or you can do all of them - and we encourage you to think creatively about the best way for you to show your support and engage the whole

Make sure to share details of your efforts to support people seeking sanctuary through your school newsletter and website to raise awareness amongst the wider school community.

You can also tweet/X [@SchsOfSanctuary](#) and [@RefugeeTogether](#) and use the hashtags [#TogetherWithRefugees](#) and [#SchoolsOfSanctuary](#) to keep us updated on what you're doing.

Resources

Please print and use the following pages to support your activities.

1. Together with Refugees heart symbol to display
2. Outline of Together With Refugees heart symbol for children to colour in.



