

St. David's College

is proud to be an accredited

Refugee Welcome School 2017

Our school has been recognised for its commitment to:

1. **A Refugee Welcome Plan:** to make sure those seeking sanctuary in our school and wider community experience a warm and generous welcome;
2. **A Refugee Awareness Plan:** to educate all of our pupils, staff and community on the issue of refugees and the importance of providing a welcome
3. **A Refugee Action Plan:** to participate in community campaigns that improve the lives of refugees in the UK.

Signed:

Dated:

Refugee Welcome School Support Pack

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1. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in accrediting as a 'Refugee Welcome School'.

There has never been a more important time for our schools to demonstrate their commitment to welcoming refugees.

The UK's response to the Syrian refugee crisis means that at least 20,000 refugees from that conflict will arrive here between now and 2020. Many will be resettled in communities that have never hosted refugees before. Every single resettled refugee will have a connection to a school, as only families are eligible for the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Programme. This means that schools become crucial places of welcome, orientation and integration for refugee families. Schools also play a central role in the growing number of Community Sponsorship schemes around the country. This is all in addition to those families who come seeking sanctuary through the asylum system. Your school can help refugees integrate into your local community, and help the community to welcome refugees.

Citizens UK developed the Refugee Welcome School concept with one of its member schools, Saint Gabriel's College, a Church of England secondary school in South London in 2016. A further 35 schools soon expressed an interest in replicating the model. Now Citizens UK and NASUWT, the Teachers' Union, have joined forces to promote Refugee Welcome Schools. We hope to grow a movement of pupils, teachers, school leaders, trade unionists and community organisers across the country working together to make our schools and communities places of welcome.

Good luck preparing your three plans – and we look forward to receiving your application for accreditation as a Refugee Welcome School!

The Revd Ellen Eames
Chaplain, Saint Gabriel's College
Member of Citizens UK

NASUWT signature here

2. What is a Refugee Welcome School?

Refugee Welcome Schools is an accreditation scheme to recognise schools that have made a commitment to welcome refugees in their institution and community, educate all their pupils and staff about the importance of refugee protection over the course of a year, and participate in campaigns to improve the lives of refugees in the UK. The scheme is run by Citizens UK in partnership with the NASUWT.

In order to become a Refugee Welcome School, you must submit the forms below, which provide detail of a Refugee Welcome Plan, a Refugee Awareness Plan, and a Refugee Action Plan. Your application will be scrutinised by a Refugee Welcome Schools Panel, made up of teachers, educationalists, trades unionists, children and refugees themselves.

Accredited Refugee Welcome Schools are encouraged to display their accreditation certificate prominently, and are welcome to use the logo on materials. Accredited schools gain access to the Refugee Welcome Schools Network and additional resources.

We ask schools to resubmit their application each year. We reserve the right to rescind accreditation of institutions not meeting the criteria or otherwise bringing the Refugee Welcome Schools scheme into disrepute.

3. History of Refugee Welcome Schools: Saint Gabriel's

14 and 15 year olds at Saint Gabriel's College, a Church of England secondary school in South London, came up with the idea of Refugee Welcome Schools in 2015. In Refugee Week in 2016 they hosted a summit for twenty-five other interested schools.

Here, the students share their reflections on why Refugee Welcome Schools are important:

Amanda: In autumn 2015, the news was full of pictures of the Syrian refugees being forced to leave their homes and make terrifying journeys. So many refugees are just young people like us, and if we were in that situation, we would hope that someone would be willing to help. One of our school Christian values is 'Service to Others' – Jesus teaches us to help our neighbour. We decided that we wouldn't just walk on past as people suffered but that we would do whatever we could.

Oliwia: Our school is a member of Citizens UK, a community organising movement that helps people to become leaders, work together and change things for the better. We felt that the refugee crisis was very important to us so we wanted to take action that would make a difference. We are an inclusive Christian school with students of different faiths, languages and cultures, so we are already quite good at welcoming students who arrive from other countries. We thought about what a young refugee would need if they came to our school, and that we could set an example for how refugees should be treated.

Megan: We came up with the idea of becoming a “Refugee Welcome School”, so that we can play our part in responding to the crisis and be ready to give refugees who arrive here the support they need. We worked with our Citizens UK organiser to design a “Refugee Welcome School” commitment. Schools that sign up to this promise to teach all their pupils about refugees, and provide a welcome to refugee students including English language support, a school “buddy” and welcome activities. Schools all over the country signed up to the initiative which is incredibly exciting.

Crystal: Being a Refugees Welcome School also means using our public voice and organising with our local community to support refugee resettlement. We can't just wait for the government to sort everything out - we would be waiting for ever! For example, despite the government's promise to resettle 20,000 people, by October 2015 very few refugees had arrived. We took part in the “1000 Before Christmas” vigil outside the Houses of Parliament. I had never spoken in public before, but that day I spoke to a crowd of 1000 people about Refugee Welcome Schools and the fact that we are ready to resettle refugees – so the government should be too. One week later Prime Minister Cameron announced that Britain would resettle 1000 refugees by Christmas – which we did! We also worked with local faith groups to convince our council, Lambeth, to agree to resettle 20 families. Working together with other people can really make things change for the better.

Danielle: In Refugee Week we hosted a summit for Refugee Welcome Schools. 25 primary and secondary schools are attending from all over the country: 100 young people with their teachers. They included Christians, Muslims, atheists – everyone! We can't believe that our idea has come so far. The summit was an amazing opportunity to share ideas and good practice, think about further action we can take, and celebrate the work that schools and young people can do to support refugees. We hope that many more schools will become Refugee Welcome Schools so together we can really make a difference.

4. Designing a Refugee Welcome Plan

Think about the systems and processes you will put in place to make refugee pupils and their families welcome in your community. For example:

- A buddy system for all newly-arrived refugee pupils;
- Considering parents of refugees for Teaching Assistant or other staff roles;
- Hosting a welcome celebration and engaging the wider community.

5. Designing a Refugee Awareness Plan

Think about how you can make sure all pupils and staff are educated about the importance of welcoming refugees over the course of a year. For example:

- Using Refugee Week as an opportunity to theme assemblies for every pupil;
- Assign a class to make posters about welcoming refugees for display in the school;
- Identify parts of the curriculum within which pupils could learn about refugee protection;
- Engage with staff to encourage participation among teachers and support staff.

6. Designing a Refugee Action Plan

Think about how your school can participate in community campaigns to improve the lives of refugees and those seeking sanctuary. For example:

- Run a 'listening campaign' to identify problems for refugees in your area;
- Campaign for refugees with teaching backgrounds/aspirations to be supported to develop their career;
- Join a local Citizens alliance, and support efforts to resettle more Syrian refugees, such as through Community Sponsorship.

7. Application for Accreditation as a Refugee Welcome School

Name of School	St David's Catholic College
Local Authority	Cardiff City
Headteacher	Mark Leighfield
Refugee Welcome School Contact Name	Geraint Williams
Refugee Welcome School Contact Email	gwilliams@stdavidscollege.ac.uk
Refugee Welcome School Contact Phone	02920 498555
Refugee Welcome School Contact Address	St David's Catholic College, Ty Gwyn Road, Penylan, Cardiff, CF23 5QD
Estimated Number of Pupils from a Refugee Background	Difficult to estimate as many students are second generation refugees. No data is held.
Have you engaged teachers & support staff in developing this plan?	Yes
Do you have pupils: a) resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme; b) community sponsorship?; c) unaccompanied minors under the Dubs' Amendment?	NO
Delete words in bold as appropriate:	Our school has SOME experience of welcoming pupils from refugee backgrounds.
Delete words in bold as appropriate:	Our school DOES NOT have staff with specialist skills or experience in supporting pupils from refugee backgrounds

Describe your Refugee Welcome Plan	List here the practical steps your school will take and the systems you will put in place to ensure that refugee pupils and their families receive a warm and generous welcome in the school and the wider community.
<p>Work with outside groups and students from linguistically similar backgrounds to support refugee students with language to access services.</p> <p>In particular with Syrian refugees, we have a large number of Arabic speaking students who are interested in supporting the college with this endeavour.</p>	
<p>Prepare a buddy system in line with house volunteering hours to support refugee students to help them feel welcome, encourage them to get involved with college activities and become a visible part of college life.</p>	
<p>Host a diversity celebration event in college to celebrate the ethnically diverse nature of the college, highlighting the differing backgrounds of students and the contribution they have made to college life.</p>	

<p>Describe your Refugee Awareness Plan</p>	<p>List here how you will ensure all the staff and pupils at your school are educated about the importance of welcoming refugees, and how you will incorporate learning about refugees into the curriculum and broader life of the school.</p>
<p>Raise awareness of the plight of refugees in the college pastoral and religion and life program. Encourage learners to think about the importance of welcoming refugees into our communities and the hardships they have had to endure. This links well with the college's compliance with Prevent.</p>	
<p>Encourage a group of learners to produce a Refugees Welcome display as part of religion and life volunteering hours, showing the college is doing its part to fulfil The College's mission of being for the whole community.</p>	
<p>Organise a Refugees Welcome steering group to drive forward the college's action plan on welcoming refugees. The team should include both teaching and support staff and should consider whether the college is doing what it can to accommodate refugees. One member to liaise with Safeguarding and learner support team to ensure students are getting the support they need.</p>	
<p>Encourage staff to seek opportunities to raise the issue of refugees across the curriculum. This will be easier for some subjects more than others, so opportunities to encourage learners to get involved should be found using the enrichment and pastoral programs.</p>	

Describe your Refugee Action Plan	List here how the school will engage with the wider community and refugee families to identify social injustices facing refugees in the UK and take action to campaign for change.
Host a diversity celebration event in college to celebrate the ethnically diverse nature of the college, highlighting the differing backgrounds of students and the contribution they have made to college life.	
Liaise with Diocese and Citizens UK to seek opportunities for supporting their mission in supporting refugees in Cardiff. Encourage learners to go out to parishes and become advocates for refugees in the church communities.	
Encourage learners in Dyniol house to run a listening campaign on the differing attitudes to refugees. Use the views collected to address any misconceptions or anxieties that students or individuals within the college community have.	
Work with Citizens and trade unions to support refugees with education backgrounds and aspirations to develop their career within an educational establishment in Cardiff. The college will share resources produced with individuals where appropriate.	

8. Resources

CITIZENS UK

NASUWT
The Teachers' Union

#REFUGEESWELCOME