

We are working towards  
gaining recognition as a  
School of Sanctuary



Newcastle City of Sanctuary

# What is a School of Sanctuary?

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A School of Sanctuary:

- Is a place of welcome for all.
- Educates about why people are forcibly displaced.
- Recognises that the UK is enriched by new arrivals.
- Supports pupils from all backgrounds to feel seen, supported and included.



# Why become a School of Sanctuary?

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- Creates a sense of safety and inclusion;
- Provides learning opportunities about what it means to seek sanctuary and to discuss some negative myths;
- Promotes well-being and a sense of community;
- Helps improve outcomes and attendance - children that feel safe and included will be more likely to attend;
- Increases pupil voice and promotes active citizenship;

*“Education does not  
change the world.  
Education changes  
people. People change  
the world.”*

Paulo Freire

# Why become a School of Sanctuary?

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- Boosts our work to gain inclusion standards and meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010;
- Builds a culture that reduces intolerance, hate speech and bullying;
- Increases pupil voice and promotes active and engaged citizenship;
- Engages families and strengthens our role in the local community;
- Improves our provision for those with English as an additional language.

*“Everyone has the right to feel safe and included.”*  
Year 6 Child

*“Our school is a sanctuary because we are a community and we accept everyone.”*  
Year 6 Child

# How do we become a School of Sanctuary?

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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 into our very fabric, and that share and celebrate our achievements.
3. **Share** our values and achievements across our school community, with families and in our local community.





# What do we plan to do?

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- Sharing our vision with our children, Parents/Carers and Governors;
- Meetings with our School Council/Head Boy and Girls;
- Taking part in Refugee Week (20<sup>th</sup> June – 26<sup>th</sup> June) – including sharing age-appropriate stories;
- Coffee mornings;
- Workshops planned for children to hear about people who have lived experience of seeking sanctuary;
- Continue sharing World news through various sources;
- Continue PSHCE work around community, belongingness, what makes us unique and special.



# Some definitions...

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- **Asylum Seeker:** A person who has requested asylum in the UK, and who is waiting for the Home Office to make a decision on that application. They may be waiting to receive an initial decision on their claim, or they may have had their claim refused but they are appealing the decision. There is no such thing as an illegal asylum seeker; everyone has the right to have their claim to asylum considered
- **People Seeking Sanctuary:** This is the term preferred by City of Sanctuary in recognition of the dehumanising rhetoric which can occur when referring to people by their immigration status and to be more inclusive of all those who are forced to migrate and seek safety and welcome, including - but not limited to - those who are refugees and seeking asylum. We might also use 'people with lived experience' to refer to people who have experienced seeking sanctuary.





# Some definitions...

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- **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC):** These are children and young people who are seeking asylum in the UK but who have been separated from their parents or carers. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority.
- **Refugee:** A person who is in the UK legally, having either received a positive decision on their asylum application or been resettled in the UK via a United Nations Resettlement Programme. In international law a refugee is someone who, 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside of their country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside of the country of their former habitual residence is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.'