



Bristol City of Sanctuary

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF SANCTUARY

Congratulations to our five new Schools of Sanctuary

As you know, a number of schools embark on the audit and action planning process to become Schools of Sanctuary each Autumn, and we are really pleased to have worked with 5 new schools who were successful in this academic year:

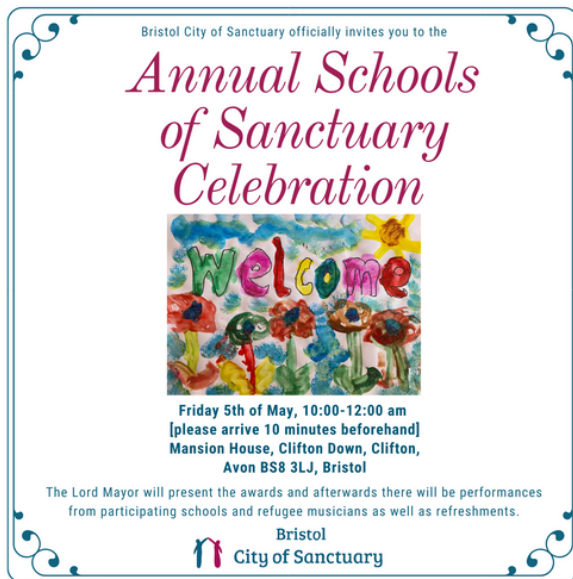
- Bristol Cathedral Choir School
- Fairfield High School
- Orchard School
- Willow Park C of E Primary School
- Blagdon School



Blagdon School in North Somerset also achieved the award in Bristol, as they do not have a local scheme. These schools join other Schools of Sanctuary in Bristol: Compass Point, Blaise High School, Oasis Academy Connaught and Easton CE Academy. City Academy and St Mary Redcliffe Primary School, who were part of the first cohort to get the awards several years ago, were also re-accredited this year.

Schools of Sanctuary Annual Celebration, Mansion House, Bristol May 5th

Nick Mayfield, Volunteer for Bristol City of Sanctuary



There was a cheerful buzz of reunion at the Mansion House as school students and staff gathered together with the Lord Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors from Bristol City Council (BCC), City of Sanctuary (BCoS) representatives and volunteers, as well as representatives of refugee and asylum seeker organisations for the Annual Schools of Sanctuary Celebration.



The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Paula O'Rourke, kindly hosted our event at the Mansion House, donating one of her official days to the charity.



She set the context for us by talking her view of Bristol's multi-cultural society and the issues around immigration that the city is dealing with. Natalie Jaifar, (Co-chair of BCoS, who also works for Bristol City Council's Resettlement Team), then thanked all those present for their work in building schools that welcomed sanctuary seekers. Ruth Pickersgill (the BCoS lead on Schools of Sanctuary) went on to hold a discussion with students about what a School of Sanctuary is, and described the progress of this movement in the UK and in Bristol.






Staff and students from City of Bristol College and City Academy (both of which have had their status re-accredited this year) talked about their work in this area including a powerful poem about identity from Yehor Vanzhula.



Reena Bhogal-Welsh, Interim Director of Education, then reflected on the impact of Schools of Sanctuary work, and particularly the significance for refugee families. She described the Bristol City Council’s Belonging Strategy, which provides a useful framework, and congratulated those schools that were being awarded with School of Sanctuary status. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Asher Craig, said that she was proud to help lead a city that was so welcoming, and she reflected changes in the city during her lifetime in the areas of ethnicity, population, languages spoken and countries of origin. Bristol is the second youngest city in the UK, and also in terms of diversity, mirrors the UK population.

We had a break for refreshments, which included a very energetic and participative drumming workshop led by Alphonse Touna, and some quieter music for Kora and trumpet from Bristol Griot Duo (Moussa Kouyate and David Mowat). I struck up a conversation with a student from Fairfield High School. She told me that the fact that there are people who thinking about other people could be life changing for a refugee like her. We talked about how the school had changed for the better during her time there in terms of the celebration of different cultures, and how the school and its staff and pupils had given her confidence to speak out.



“I Come From” by Yehor
(Poem inspired by “I Come From” by Dean Atta)

I come from the Ukraine war.
I come from my destroyed home.
I come from a Ukrainian passport, my Ukrainian life.
I come from Odesa and the Black Sea.
I come from Kozacs and the strong Ukrainian people.
I come from the words of Taras Shevchenko.
I come from my blue and yellow flag.

I come from Bristol.
I come from my new home, my new life.
I come from cheering Manchester United.
I come from fish and chips and borscht.
I come from City Academy at day and Odessa school at night.
I come from my new friends and my old friends.
I come from a language I know and a language I’m learning.

I come from a hard-working father and loving mother.
I come from my sister’s sunny smiles.
I come from the United Kingdom.
I come from Ukraine.



After the break, the Lord Mayor thanked the musicians for their contributions and the presentations of the Schools of Sanctuary Awards began:

- First up was Fairfield High School and a member of staff described their work helping refugee students to leave the school in a better place than when they started their time there. The student I spoke to during the break made a moving speech about her family's flight from Syria to Jordan, as well the difficulties for her parents in providing for the family. On arrival in the UK, there were difficulties such as learning a new language, fitting in and adjusting to a new life. She was grateful that the teaching that she had received and expressed her hope that all refugees would have the opportunities that she had had, and that everyone could try to help refugees to be themselves.
- Staff and children from Willow Park Primary School then received their award and they talked about the children's arrival from Pakistan and Afghanistan, the challenges of learning English and surviving trauma. There were moving statements from the children about what makes them feel safe, as many of them are still living in hotels.
- An award was then made to Bristol Cathedral Choir School. The staff told us about the school's journey towards achieving this status, using the curriculum to support refugees and learn about the diverse cultures in the school. In addition, students celebrate Iftar, study Somali poetry and make connections with their origins. Students from the Refugee Week Committee talked about their work fundraising, organising art and music events for Refugee Week as well assisting with learning English as an Additional Language. They asked us to think about why this work matters, why we should help those who are vulnerable and challenged us to go on and achieve more.
- Orchard School was next to receive their award and they explained that their first value is 'open mindedness' and, according to the staff, this helped them to achieve the award. This attitude was very evident in poetry then read by students from Year 7 and 9.
- Blagdon Primary School is in North Somerset, but has also received the School of Sanctuary Award and is really pleased to join BCoS. They have welcomed a group of Ukrainian pupils who read moving poetry about peace, and kept us amused with reflections on the difference between Ukrainian and UK schools, especially when it came to things like uniform and how much being late matters.

Finally, Susana Askew, the BCoS Co-Chair, wrapped up what had been a stimulating morning, expressing her thanks to the Lord Mayor, Ruth Pickersgill and BCoS volunteers. By the end of the morning the cheerful buzz at the start of the morning had, through the voices of children seeking sanctuary in Bristol, become a roar of celebration, empowerment and possibility.

Other news, resources and networking opportunities

If you want to receive newsletters from Bristol City of Sanctuary
<https://bristol.cityofsanctuary.org/sign-up-to-our-monthly-newsletter>

Refugee Week

Nationally, Refugee Week is 19–25 June, and the theme this year is 'Compassion' (it is the Week's 25th anniversary, and they would like us to celebrate what compassion looks like in action and how we can extend it widely to all-a great theme for schools to address)



In Bristol, this year's Refugee Festival will be a 2 week-long programme (from 12th - 25th June) of arts, cultural and educational events that bring together communities across the city to celebrate the contribution refugees and asylum seekers make to the City. We also welcome the return of 'Celebrating Sanctuary' in Queen Square on Sunday 25th June.

Many schools are already planning their programmes of activities and awareness raising through drop down days, a curriculum focus, fundraising etc. Local charity, Refugee Festival, coordinate a collaborative year-round programme of arts, cultural and educational events, bringing together communities from across Bristol and beyond to connect, share and celebrate, and are always happy to work in partnership with schools.

The Launch event for the Festival is 6-8pm on 12th June at Docklands Settlement. Events will be listed on Events (bristolrefugeefestival.org).



Volunteers are needed to help with the 'Celebrating Sanctuary' event on Sun 25th June at Queen Square, and stallholders are also sought.

A wide variety of roles are available to suit all levels of experience:

- General steward (Helping the public, litter picking, keeping toilets nice)
- Activities Volunteers (Support family craft and games activities)
- Stage Hands + Runners (Setting up the stage for acts / keeping the stage organised)

- Operations Volunteers (Helping to get the site set-up and packed down)
- Research Volunteers (Running fun activities to get audience feedback about the event)

Please register your interest and availability by completing this online form
<https://www.bristolrefugeefestival.org/be-involved/join-our-team/>

If your school or college would like to have a stall, use this link to get further information and fill in the form to reserve a pitch at the event: <https://forms.gle/uwN8VXN6Dwzv7HT7>

Escape to Safelandia

A new comic has been produced in Bristol by Kate Evans and Tom Daly, to raise awareness in an accessible way of the situation sanctuary seekers find themselves in, and to dispel some of the myths. The launch of the publication will be on June 13th 7-9pm at St Paul's Learning Centre BS2 8XJ. See [Escape to Safelandia Book Launch \(bristolrefugeefestival.org\)](https://bristolrefugeefestival.org) with details of how to book.



National News from Schools of Sanctuary:

Significant amounts of information and resources are always available on the national Schools of Sanctuary website- also see their latest newsletter on [School of Sanctuary Newsletter - April 2023](https://cityofsanctuary.org) (cityofsanctuary.org) and subscribe directly.

A number of events have been recorded by Schools of Sanctuary for you to access in your own time on <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/resources/event-recordings> including:

- An Introduction to Schools of Sanctuary -perfect for those getting started on their journey.
- Welcoming Ukrainian Children in School
- 'Creating an Environment Conducive for Recovery for Displaced Children'

Their website and [Resource Pack](#) are designed to inspire and guide you through your School of Sanctuary journey . To keep up to date with their latest resources, events and activities, sign up to their [regular mailing list](#) and the [termly newsletter](#).

Supporting Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Pupils in Schools: Professionals Toolkit

Bristol City Council Attendance and Belonging Team are developing a range of resources for local schools supporting sanctuary seeking families (see Networks below). One really useful document is a guide to all the support that is available in Bristol

If you would like to access to the new Toolkit, please email the Attendance & Belonging Team to request this: attendanceandbelongingteam@bristol.gov.uk

We are hoping to shortly share the new Toolkit with schools and other professionals. We welcome your feedback, and any recommendations for content ahead of the launch.

Other Learning Resources:

- **Migration Museum** - The Migration Museum has a raft of resources available to look at different periods throughout history, local stories of migration and plenty more. Teacher training on embedding migration in the curriculum is also available. The Migration Museum also worked closely with Pearson on developing their GCSE History Migration module. Our **Migration Story** - [Home / Our Migration Story](#) is a resource-packed website which offers stories of migration to the UK for over 100 years and comes with contemporary sources, lesson plans and classroom activities to help you develop a scheme of work around the chosen story. Completely free.
- **The Swimmers** - Now available on Netflix, this drama is based on the story of two Syrian sisters and addresses both a refugee's experience and shows a young athlete's determination to succeed against all odds. Only suitable for secondary age students, show with caution to those with lived experience.
- **Welcome to UK Parliament Outreach** offers FREE guided visits, workshops, interactive sessions and more offered by UK Parliamentary Outreach [Schools and colleges - Parliament UK Education](#).
- [Rita Ora in the Big Issue](#), talks about her experiences of seeking safety and why it's important to think critically about what's written in the news.
- [Recommendations for Sustainable Provision in School, for children who are refugees](#) - The Bell Foundation (*highly recommended)
- [Refugee Week: Children and Young People's Activity Pack](#) from Counterpoint Arts, the Refugee Week organisers
- [The Waiting Place Webcast with Dina Nayeri](#) for students aged 7-9 (16th June)
- [When Stars Are Scattered Webcast with Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed](#) for students aged 9-11 (16th June)
- Mental Health Foundation: [Youth Mental Health - Supporting Young People Using a Trauma Informed Practice](#) (Ongoing)
- University of Reading: [Understanding Multilingual Children's Language Development](#) (Ongoing)
- The Bell Foundation: [Recommendations for Sustainable Provision in School, for Children who are Refugees](#)
- **Bell Foundation videos:**
 1. [Teaching vocabulary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbrtdZ9MGWk&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=6): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbrtdZ9MGWk&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=6
 2. [Adaptive teaching \(humanities focus\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0r3ZljvF59g&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=12): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0r3ZljvF59g&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=12
 3. [Using substitution tables to help build sentences](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Su0glXmF_4s&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=36): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Su0glXmF_4s&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=36
 4. [Maintaining high expectations](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmrkOsbQJNM&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=17): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmrkOsbQJNM&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=17
 5. [Closing attainment gaps using formative assessment](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDOBSv6UmDQ&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=1): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDOBSv6UmDQ&list=PLOFvKa9dRKjeA9hLLGkWxO3zmAaK_vCF8&index=1

- **NALDIC Webinars:** NALDIC and Chartered College of Teaching Partnership | EAL training - NALDIC

A wide range of webinars are available on useful topics like 'the Impact of School Closure of Pupils with EAL', Multi-lingual Children: Their development and Wellbeing, and Effective EAL Practices.

Full webinar series on supporting new arrivals with EAL (first four are members only):

<https://naldic.org.uk/events-cpd/cpd-events-eal-advice/training-materials/naldic-chartered-college/>

Open access webinar - linguistic challenges of EAL: <https://youtu.be/9HjSOc3rzfc>

Open access webinar - linguistic and socio-emotional development of refugee students:

<https://youtu.be/eBq6695sWGE>

- **IOM Afghan Cultural Awareness Session in Person - Taunton 5th July**

Institute of Migration will be holding an Afghan Cultural Awareness Session on 5th July 2023, 10:00am – 4:00pm, at the Albemarle Centre, Taunton (a five-minute walk from Taunton railway station). Spaces will be assigned on a first come first serve basis; if you would like to attend, please contact: jemima.hendy@swcouncils.gov.uk This session on Afghanistan will look at the background and experiences of Afghan communities and how this can potentially impact their expectations of life in the UK. By covering some key topics, participants will have an opportunity to explore opportunities to adapt support services for effective integration assistance.

Local Training Offers:

- Bristol Refugee Rights can offer training on the asylum system on Refugee and Asylum Seeker training - Bristol Refugee Rights
- Bridges for Communities offers training on Cultural Awareness Cultural Awareness Training –Bridges For Communities and also hosts Refulingua who offer language classes for adults eg in Arabic and Somali.
- Better Bilingual offers on-line or in person CPD sessions on the following topics:
 1. BB01 Meeting the pastoral needs of Refugees & Asylum Seekers
 2. BB02 Welcoming & teaching New to English Learners
 3. BB03 Enhancing provision for Advanced Bilingual Learners
 4. BB04 Distinguishing between EAL & SEND and planning provision
 5. BB05 Ensuring the effectiveness of your EAL Assessment Framework
 6. BB06 Evaluating the impact of your EAL Policy across the curriculum
 7. BB07 Reviewing your New Arrivals Induction and Assessment Policy
 8. BB08 Reviewing the curriculum for EDI: ethnicity and multilingualism

Contact Better Bilingual – Enhancing outcomes for bilingual learners in collaboration with educational settings or email : info@betterbilingual.co.uk Subscribe to their e-newsletter by clicking here

Local Best Practice Networks

Schools of Sanctuary will reconvene its Network in the new academic year. However, in the meantime, there are several useful networks in the City:

Better Bilingual EAL Network

Better Bilingual EAL Network meets virtually three times a year to discuss themes, approaches and resources relevant to high expectations and high achievement in the multilingual classroom. Contact them (see above) to get dates for 2023/4 on info@betterbilingual.co.uk or subscribe to their e-newsletter by clicking [here](#)

Trauma Informed Network

If you are interested in joining the Bristol Trauma Informed Network, please email trauma.informed@bristol.gov.uk or Click [here](#) to register with the Bristol Trauma Informed Network

SRASPS Meetings (Supporting Refugee and Asylum Seeking Pupils in Bristol Schools)

These meetings are facilitated by the Attendance and Belonging Team in the City Council, and they are focused on developing and sharing best practice. They are also producing really useful documents for schools such as a Guide for refugee families on where to get support (see news above), Guidance on Working with Interpreters, a PTSD check list etc., so it is useful to keep in touch with developments.

The next SRASPS meeting will take place via Teams on: Friday 14th July 10am to 12pm

Contact : attendanceandbelongingteam@bristol.gov.uk to receive information or get involved.

Young People's Forum

This is facilitated by Bristol Refugee Rights and focusses on support for organisations working with sanctuary seeking young people (including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children). It may be less relevant to schools but provides useful legal and other national and local updates. Information from clare@bristolrefugeerights.org

Campaigns:

(If you want to find out more about national Schools of Sanctuary campaigns contact megan@cityofsanctuary.org)

- **Asylum 'Support' Myth Busting.** A big part of Schools of Sanctuary is helping students and staff be better able to navigate and dismiss misleading and hostile media headlines and narratives, many of which revolve around the support provided to people seeking asylum in the UK. This term we encourage schools to learn about this theme and breakdown the facts about the little support people seeking sanctuary receive. People seeking asylum receive only £5.84 per day to cover all their food, travel, mobile data, health and hygiene items and other essential needs. At the same time, they are banned from working whilst their asylum claim is being processed, meaning that are solely reliant on this support whilst their skills, experience and enthusiasm all go to waste. Currently, around 50% of people seeking asylum have to wait over 6 months to have their claim processed, with hundreds waiting many years, all the time staying in limbo.
- **Please support the Refugee Action petition – STOP the ANTI REFUGEE BILL** which is clear and positive <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/campaigns/stand-up-for-asylum/>
- **Here is a link to the recent Freedom from Torture online event about the Borders Bill** with speakers from Freedom from Torture, One Strong Voice (Refugees with lived experience) and Thangam Debbonaire MP. Also the link to useful presentations on Unaccompanied Children. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm77O0dAE1i8B79x-vv4NSw>
- If you do one thing from this newsletter, National Schools of Sanctuary ask that you please read [our briefing about the threat to children's rights with the new Illegal Migration Bill](#). This proposed bill is shocking and heartbreaking and we need everyone to stand against it. Read, send to a friend or colleague, and take action. Thank you.

Contact us:

- On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BristolCityofSanctuary>.
- On Instagram: <http://instagram.com/BristolCityofSanctuary>.
- On Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/BristolCoS>
- On Bristol City of Sanctuary Website: <https://bristol.cityofsanctuary.org>

Bristol City of Sanctuary currently does not have a manager in post, but if you email Bristol City of Sanctuary on education@bristol.cityofsanctuary.org your email will be answered. We will be working with individual schools next term, but will be pulling together a new cohort of schools to work towards the Schools Of Sanctuary status in the Autumn Term.