



*[Name of School]*

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 Learning 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

1. Introduction
2. What is a Refugee Welcome School?
3. The History of Refugee Welcome Schools
4. Designing a Refugee Welcome Plan
5. Designing a Refugee Learning Plan
6. Designing a Refugee Action Plan
7. Resources



## 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 NASUWT, the Teachers' Union, has joined forces with Citizens UK 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 and supported by 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 Learning 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.

## 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 Learning 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 NASUWT members and other staff unions to encourage participation among teachers and other 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	
Local Authority	
Headteacher	
Refugee Welcome School Co-ordinator Name	
Refugee Welcome School Co-ordinator Email	
Refugee Welcome School Co-ordinator Phone	
Refugee Welcome School Co-ordinator Address	
Estimated Number of Refugee Pupils from a Refugee Background	
Have you sought engagement with NASUWT &/or other staff unions?	
Do you have pupils: a) resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme or Community Sponsorship?; c) unaccompanied minors under the Dubs' Amendment?	
Delete words in bold as appropriate:	Our school has <b>GREAT/SOME/NO</b> experience of welcoming pupils from refugee backgrounds.
Delete words in bold as appropriate:	Our school <b>DOES/DOES NOT</b> have staff with specialist skills or experience in supporting pupils from refugee backgrounds

<b>Describe your Refugee Welcome Plan</b>	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.

<b>Describe your Refugee Learning Plan</b>	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.

<b>Describe your Refugee Action Plan</b>	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.



## 8. Resources