SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



St Peter's school dress-up in solidarity with Ukraine

United with Ukraine: Schools' Responses to the War in Ukraine

The past academic term has been marked by the horrific and distressing events we have all seen unfold in Ukraine and the subsequent flight of over 3 million Ukrainians across its borders. As the crisis develops and the war goes on, schools across the UK have responded quickly to stand in solidarity with those remaining in Ukraine, those that have fled to neighbouring countries and the few that have already arrived in the UK.

Many schools have understood that it was important to give children the opportunity to discuss what was happening in Ukraine and share their thoughts and concerns. We have developed some guidance and resources to help teachers

The Schools of Sanctuary Newsletter is released every term. Sign up to receive the newsletter straight to your email account here.

In this term's edition we cover: Schools
Responses to the War in Ukraine - Welcome
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FSM - Ten Actions for Ten Years - Upcoming
Events - CPD Opportunities - Latest Resources Topic of the Term - Book Club - Competition
Corner.

and parent/carers during these tough conversations - find them on our website.

At St Francis' in Birmingham, students and staff recognised Freedom Friday where everyone wore the colours of the Ukraine flag and did activities to show support and solidarity for the people of Ukraine. The reception children reflected on what it is like for some of the children who are in the Ukraine who had to pack very little of their belongings and leave their home with little notice. They left the classroom and walked around the playground contemplating in silence. Year 6 children came out to cheer them on their last few laps around the playground, where everyone gathered to say a prayer together.



Hotspur Primary, Newcastle



United with Ukraine: Schools' Responses to the War in Ukraine continued....

St Dunstan's in Birmingham helped transform a shared community arts space, the Art Rooms in Kings Heath, with a display of solidarity with Ukraine.



Martham Academy and Nursery, Norfolk

In North Lincolnshire, students from sanctuary-seeking and migratory backgrounds at Scunthorpe CofE Primary School, shared some reflections and words of advice for Ukrainian children arriving in the UK. Some powerful and heart-warming messages included: "Don't panic - you'll make new friends, you'll be happy", "Stay strong, don't be afraid. You're not alone" and "My advice would be come to this school - it's the best." You can watch the full video here - what would your students add?

In Kirklees, students at Carlton Junior and Infant School and Flockton CE First School shared their support for Ukrainians in song with help from the 6million+ project.

Finally at St Thomas More RC Primary School in Birmingham, Year 6 designed t-shirts of solidarity with Ukraine and wore them when joining together in a collective moment of reflection; praying for peace, sanctuary and comfort for all those suffering.

Schools' Fundraising Efforts

Dene Academy in Durham held a week of solidarity with Ukraine to raise money for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and organised various activities such as making a giant sunflower of peace, leading a sponsored walk and holding a yellow and blue non-uniform day. St Peter's RC Primary School in Bartley Green, Birmingham also wore yellow and blue to raise money.

Martham Academy and Nursery in Norfolk did a yellow and blue cake sale to raise money for the DEC whilst also raising the flag of Ukraine, and doing a day of music which brought in the staff choir, students and ending with a whole-school chorus of 'Heal the World'.

In the Kingsway Community Trust schools of Ladybarn, Cringle Brook and Green End primary schools in Manchester, the Trust decided to not only raise money for people seeking sanctuary across the world but give children the opportunity to develop their understanding of peace in the world. Classes across focused on the theme of peace, including artistic responses to the theme of peace, designing posters, hosting biscuit sales and arranging a 'Pennies for Peace' trail. Local artist, Frank Dowd, worked with one class to create a papier-maché representation of peace, that reflected diversity, pride, unity, compassion, hope, activism and peace. This sculpture will be displayed around Manchester, including at the charity for homeless people, Coffee 4 Craig, given how many people seeking sanctuary experience this in the UK. Hopefully, it will inspire others to strive for peace and unity.

Next steps

Schools are at the forefront of welcoming and supporting newly arrived Ukrainians, with the Department of Education estimating that 100,000 Ukrainian children will be enrolling in UK schools this year. The efforts of schools to build sanctuary has never been more important – which means Schools of Sanctuary has also never been more vital. We are working hard to respond to the incredible surge in interest and continue to develop helpful resources and events to support schools in welcoming new Ukrainian students and all those from sanctuary-seeking backgrounds.

If you believe what we offer is useful and that we should continue to promote sanctuary within and beyond schools please consider the ways your school can support us by fundraising and donating. Visit our <u>Schools of Sanctuary fundraising appeal</u> to support us.

The Chaplaincy Team at Abbey RC Primary School, Birmingham with the reply from their MP.





Southampton Schools of Sanctuary Welcome Boxes

Over the early part of 2022, the Southampton Schools of Sanctuary Team, in partnership with John Hansard Galley brought together 12 schools to support the Welcome Boxes project, designed to offer those seeking sanctuary a little something to help them settle into their new lives.

Each school was tasked with collecting one item from a list provided by local refugee support organisations: UHT milk, toothpaste, tea, coffee, flannels, deoderants, honey, toilet paper, tissues and more. The schools were overwhelmed with the generosity of the response from their communities.

In March, Schools of Sanctuary Ambassadors went to the John Hansard Gallery to help coordinate the delivery and collection of the items. With the combined efforts of all the schools involved, the team were able to collate and distribute 70 welcome boxes that hopefully represent a small token of the big welcome they hope to offer to those that have joined as the newest members of Southampton's communities. Well done Southampton Schools of Sanctuary!

What can YOUR school do to offer welcome to people seeking sanctuary in the UK?

Why not reach out to a local refugee support organisation of City of Sanctuary group to find out - donate household items, school facilities, or your time to support the vital work they are doing - now more than ever - to provide support and safety to the people settling in your local area.



Volunteers with the Welcome Boxes Project



Volunteers prepare the boxes

Opening Doors to Education for Children in Hotels

When Kingsway Community Trust in Manchester heard last summer that there were many Afghan refugee children in Manchester hotels, without school places, they took steps to include them in school settings despite the lack of available places.

By offering the Green End Primary School Sports Hall with its additional classroom facilities for twice a week, children residing in hotels in the city were able to become familiarised with UK school settings, attend sessions for arts and crafts, outdoor activities, science, sports, maths and English and cross-paths with their peers in the corridors. Such a response is a fantastic way of thinking creatively about how schools can provide welcome, even when unable to enroll new students at the time.

The students were also able to receive a video message from Rashid Khan, a cricketer from Afghanistan. Not only did he wish them well but he also inspired them to make Afghanistan proud by aiming high. Given the tenacity and enthusiasm of the students as they got stuck into their classes, there's not doubt they already are.

Over time, some children have been able to move to schools with spaces for them and new children have arrived. Regardless, the space provided by Kingsway Community Trust has no doubt eased the integration of newly arrived Afghan children into UK school life and been a vital source of stability and support amidst the upheaval and uncertainty.

Fantastic solidarity, Kingsway Community Trust!





Campaign Success! Extending Access to FSM

It was great news to hear that the <u>government announced</u> that they will be permanently extending access to Free School Meals to all children affected by No Recourse to Public Funds who are living in poverty!

During the pandemic, the government extended Free School Meals to certain groups affected by No Recourse to Public Funds.

Many migrant families are affected by the Government's 'No Recourse to Public Funds' policy, which means they're denied access to the social security system and almost all government support, even if they're working for low pay or facing a crisis. More than 2 million people in the UK are deprived of a safety net because of this policy.

However, now the government have <u>announced</u> that they 'will permanently extend eligibility for free school meals to children from all families with NRPF, subject to the income thresholds as follows:

- £22,700 per annum for families outside London with one child.
- £31,200 per annum for families within London with one child.
- £26,300 per annum for families outside London with two or more children.
- £34,800 per annum for families within London with two or more children.'

They continue, 'these thresholds were developed to create comparative thresholds with broad equivalence with families with recourse to public funds, and who qualify for free school meals due to being in receipt of welfare benefits.'

This permanent extension will begin from the start of the summer term (19 April 2022). Newly eligible free school meal pupils will be recorded in exactly the same way as other free

school meal pupils. You can see the government's <u>guidance on providing Free</u>
<u>School Meals to families affected by NRPF here.</u>

All children in receipt of free school meals will attract pupil premium funding for their school and – dependent on meeting other criteria – will also be able to receive free home to school transport. The department will provide funding to meet the additional costs incurred through the established processes.'

According to the statement, families with 'irregular immigration status' will also be included in this, however we are waiting for further information on how this will work. Many have campaigned for many years to achieve this. You can read the Praxis (a charity supporting migrants and refugees) response twitter thread here to see a glimpse of the response.

PRAXIS, the lead organisation on this campaign, are continuing to support the delivery of this expanded eligibility criteria and would really welcome schools' feedback on the recently issued guidance and whether they foresee any challenges for families' take-up of the meals: will families' be anxious about the self-declaration form and/or are there other possible barriers to widening access to FSM?

Please reach out to Pascale.robinson@praxis.org.uk to discuss further.

An Update on the Nationality & Borders Bill

On the 27th April, the Nationality and Borders Bill was passed. This Bill represents the biggest roll back of refugee rights that this country has ever seen. The Anti-Refugee Bill will punish, and not protect, people seeking safety in the UK including torture survivors, women and children.

Whilst this cruel bill will become law, it's not too late to speak up and call on your MP to do the right thing. You can find details of your MP's voting record, template letters and suggested tweets here.

Moving forward, the role of Schools of Sanctuary in promoting compassion and welcome is vital. In the coming months we are looking for positive stories of people seeking sanctuary and the communities that welcome them. Is a refugee student at your school expected to excel in this year's exams? Is their a strong friendship between a sanctuary-seeking student and British peer in your school? Do you have a story of meaningful welcome? Get in touch, to share.



Ten Acts for Ten Years - Noah's show of support





On the run up to his 10th birthday, Noah from South Oxfordshire is doing ten actions in solidarity with children from sanctuary seeking backgrounds. In accomplishing the ten acts, Noah is hoping to raise money for Schools of Sanctuary and Reading Refugee Support Group.

These actions include:

- 1. A vow of silence
- 2. A walk/run
- 3. A swim in the cold ocean
- 4. Learning a new language
- 5. Living on £5.70 for 2 days
- 6. A day off school
- 7. A concert at a local hotel where children seeking sanctuary are staying
- 8. A playdate with children seeking sanctuary
- 9. A letter to his MP calling for a kinder treatment of refugee children and their families 10. A Guinness World Record (?!) for the most messages of solidarity (in the form of decorated love hearts) by children for children.

To help him fulfill the ten acts we're asking for YOU to get involved.

Can the children in your class send hearts with messages of love, welcome and support to contribute to the World Record attempt?

Post your letters of solidarity attn: Maggie Filipova-Rivers, First Floor, RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS by the end of the school year.



Students' Involvement with 'The Bone Sparrow' Production

In Coventry, students from Lyng Hall School have thrown themselves into supporting and engaging with Pilot Theatre's touring theatre production of the Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon.

Year 7 students worked with community producers from their local Belgrade Theatre to explore objects of importance to them, and from them develop a character and plot for a short story, which they then told through audio recordings now available at the theatre for all to hear.

Meanwhile, TEFL and EAL students, have helped to develop accessibility materials for non-English speakers in the community, translating the play synopsis into 9 different languages with accompanying art work.

To thank them for their efforts, all participating students were invited to a VIP night to see the production themselves.



Do you have News from Your School?

We are now accepting submissions for the next Schools of Sanctuary newsletter which will be published in September 2022 term.

We aim to includes stories from schools across the network, highlighting examples of creative ways of learning about immigration and best practice in inclusive practice.

If you think you have something to share, please get in touch with Megan at megan@uk.cityofsanctuary.org by the 1st July.



Small Acts #RefugeeWeek

Refugee Week this year falls on the week beginning the 20th June (World Refugee Day) and is an opportunity for all of us to further expand our understanding of the experiences of people seeking sanctuary in the UK and express our solidarity and support with them.

This year the theme is healing and encourages us to consider how we can aid the healing of those who suffer within the UK's hostile environment and how we can build bridges within divided communities.

To inspire us, Refugee Week have developed eight small acts anyone can get involved with.



Why not send a message of welcome to the newest members of your community or a message of solidarity to people who have been detained? Alternatively, get involved with Noah's World Record attempt (see page ...) Your school could cook a feast and invite people from a local refugee organisation to visit to share it and have a chat? You could plant a garden of sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine, to show support for those affected by the war: the options are endless but hopefully these suggestions will provide some inspiration!

How many acts can your school achieve - be sure to document your efforts and share them with us on social media!

Welcome to the Network



Staff and students from King's CE School (Wolverhampton) celebrate their award with their local councillor and Schools of Sanctuary coordinator at City of Sanctuary UK.

We'd like to extend a congratulations to the schools that have recently been (re-)awarded as Schools of Sanctuary:

Oasis Academy Woodview, Birmingham St Clare's RC Primary School, B'ham Welsh House Farm, B'ham (reaccredited), Wyndcliffe Primary School, B'ham Parkgate Primary School, Coventry Dereham Neathherd High School, Norfolk Bignold Primary School, Norfolk (reaccredited)
Hethersett Woodside Infant & Nursery School, Norfolk (reaccredited)
Hellesdon High School, Norfolk (reaccredited)
St Cyre's School, Vale of Glamorgan Kings CE School, Wolverhampton.

We are now a network of 341 recognised schools, nurseries and Sixth Forms with nearly 300 settings working to be recognised as a School of Sanctuary.

Protect Children on the Move

Have you got 2 minutes to spare?

<u>Sign the petition</u> to protect children on the move, which includes four recommendations to national and European politicians to better protect unaccompanied refugee children.

This petition is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which the United Kingdom is also a signatory. Unfortunately, the rights enshrined in this agreement are violated daily, both at our European borders and in the United Kingdom.



Upcoming Events

3rd May @ 16.00 - <u>The Central Role of Language in Supporting New Refugee Arrivals</u> (Bell Foundation)

11th May @ 16.00 - Welcoming Ukrainian Arrivals (Bell Foundation)

12th May @ 16.00 - School as a Place of Healing (Schools of Sanctuary & Refugee Week)

16th May - International Day of Living Together in Peace

25th May @ 16.00 - <u>Supporting New Refugee Arrivals in the Inclusive Classroom</u> [Primary]

(Bell Foundation)

26th May @ 16.00 - Supporting New Refugee Arrivals in the Inclusive Classroom

[Secondary] (Bell Foundation)

June - Gypsy, Roma Traveller History Month

17th June - A Day of Welcome (Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary)

17th June @ 9.30 - Michael Rosen 'On the Move' for Years 5/6 (Webcast from VNET

Education CIC as part of Norfolk SoS' A Day of Welcome)

17th June @ 14.00 - Miriam Halahmy's 'Saving Hanno' for Years 3/4 (Webcast from VNET

Education CIC as part of Norfolk SoS' A Day of Welcome)

20th June - World Refugee Day

22nd June - Windrush Day

22nd June @ 13:00 - Get the Children Out! Unsung Heros of the Kindertransport (For adults)

5th July @ 16.00 - End of Year Schools of Sanctuary Celebration

30th July - International Day of Friendship

Topic of the Term

Migration Histories

Refugee Week is a wonderful time to research little known histories of migration and seeking sanctuary that have enriched our communities. Even in the most rural parts of the UK, with perhaps few visible signs of recent immigration there will be rich histories of welcoming people from outside the area that are worth uncovering to better appreciate how migration has made the homes and communities that we consider our own today.

Look at Section 5, or pages 26-34 of Norfolk School of Sanctuary's 'A Day of Welcome Toolkit' for guidance on how to approach such a project with examples from Norfolk's own efforts

For schools located in contexts where they worry about the potential responses from families or members of the local community

about their learning activities around sanctuary, researching migration histories is an accessible way of learning about migration in a way that is relevant and personal to the community your school serves.





Latest Resources

Resources for New Ukrainian Arrivals

- <u>Bell Foundation Guidance for</u> <u>Parent/Carers (in Ukrainian and Russian)</u>
- <u>Ukrainian/English Bilingual Books</u> (Collated by Norfolk CC's EAL Team)
- <u>Languages Connect Classroom Language</u> <u>Mat for Ukrainian Students</u>
- DDLETB A Background to the Ukrainian <u>Education System</u>
- Schools of Sanctuary Helping Ukrainian Children Settle Into School Post
- Schools of Sanctuary Speaking with Children about the War in Ukraine
- Oak National Academy Curriculum aligned learning resources now available in Ukrainian

Supporting Children Affected by NRPF

Do you know what NRPF is and how children that are affected might be disadvantaged? In this new post, we break down the answer to these questions and highlight ways in which schools can best support the children and families this relates to.

Campaigns for Schools

Want to help young people get involved with campaigns supporting people seeking sanctuary in the UK but don't know how? Have a look at our brand new campaigns page with information, resources and suggested activities.

Research Opportunities

<u>Increasing Young Asylum Seekers' Sense of Belonging</u>

Students at the University of Southhampton are asking for young asylum-seekers aged 16 or over to complete <u>an online</u> <u>questionnaire</u> to capture students' thoughts and experiences on belonging in UK schools.

The questionnaire will take around 15-20 minutes and participants will be offered a £10 Amazon voucher also in exchange for your time. If you have questions, please email Luke Essigman at le1n20@soton.ac.uk

<u>Primary school teachers' perspectives on teaching social and emotional skills to female refugee and migrant students</u>

A PhD student at the University of York is looking to speak to primary school teachers collecting teachers who have worked with refugee and migrant students for a minimum of five years and has experience using wellbeing curriculum or techniques to teach social and emotional skills, Interviews will take 45 minutes on Zoom and participants will receive a £10 Amazon gift card.

If interested please contact Jessie Shepherd: jris500@york.ac.uk.

CPD Opportunities

Future Learn - Multilingual Learning for a Globalised World

In this free online course, participants will explore multilingual education and how it can impact and improve education and even wider society.

Future Learn - Teaching Students who Have Experienced Complex Trauma

In this accessible two-week course, you will find out what complex trauma is, how it affects children and adolescents, and what can be done to help.

Future Learn - TESOL Strategies: Supporting ESL Students in Mainstream Classrooms

Over 3 weeks, learn the basic principles, considerations and strategies for cultivating a rich language-learning environment.



Book Club

Primary

'A little girl takes her fear with here everywhere she goes but when she arrives in a new country her fear grows and grows and keeps her from finding friends and playing.

Only when she discovers a little boy that also has a fear with him does she see that everyone carries a little fear with them. By seeing that we all have small fears, she learns how to keep her fear small and enjoy her new school.

'Me and my fear' is a fantastic book to teach empathy to primary-aged children because

they can think of what fears they have and how those fears might grow and hold them back whilst also develop better understanding of how children seeking sanctuary might feel coming in to a new school.



Secondary

'When Stars are
Scattered' is the true
story of the courage and
determination of two
boys that were forced to
flee their home because
of war and how they
found peace in each
other. Hassan and Omar
are two brothers who
find themselves
orphaned and



growing up in Dadaab camp in Kenya. They talk about home in Somalia and the community that looks out for them in the camp. with the story stretching from when they are small to their journey to safety.

It is a wonderful story of brotherly love, community support and growth as they continue to look for their mother, care for their neighbours and try to understand their place in the world. Hassan's seizures and inability to speak does not hinder him from supporting his brother as Omar strives in both his school life and to find a better life for them.

For teachers

"Exit West' is the story of a couple from an unnamed war-torn city that decide to flee to safety through a series of magical doors. These doors mirror the opaqueness of the routes to safety that people seeking sanctuary must endure and over the course of the narrative readers will move with the main characters through several different scenarios that refugees fleeing here might experience today, such as life in the camps in Greece and the hostile environment of the UK.

A wonderful story that bends the mind a little bit to fully understand the decisions people fleeing conflict have to face in their search for peace, happiness and love.





COMPETITION CORNER

Spring Edition Winners

To support the Families Together campaign, this term's competition is for short poems around the theme of 'Families should be together'.

Students should think about:
Why is family important to them? What do they do with their family?
How would they feel if they couldn't be with their family?

Email submissions to schools@uk.cityofsanctuary.org by 8th April.

The Spring Term's competition was developed in collaboration with the Families Together Coalition and aimed to support their campaign to reunite refugee families. With the support of the learning resources provided, students were asked to reflect on the importance of family and how they would feel if they were separated from them in poetry.

Still want to learn about how needlessly strict rules separate refugee families in the UK? Have a look at our Families Together Schools' Toolkit.

Winning Entries

WE ARE ONE

We are one
We were happy as one
We can't ever be separated

Until the war started And we lost each other And I could not find my heart.

> Khaali and Ruwada, Cromwell Primary (Yr 2)

Congratulations to the winners a Schools of Sanctuary Certificate is on its way to you.

IF I HAD NO FAMILY

If I had no family, I never get to Try fish and ackee. My mum Originates from Jamaica and Is a pro chef.

If I had no family, I'd never
Get to know my grandma
She lives Sierra Leone
With my three aunties and cousins

If I had no family, I might Have not been where I am Right now. Having a school, Friends, support but mostly A family.

Safiyyah, St Vincent's (Yr 5 - from Jamaica and Sierra Leone)



COMPETITION CORNER

Spring Edition Runners-Up

Runners Up

FOREVER

Forever they need to be together, Always giggling and laughing together forever, Mother's day will be away,

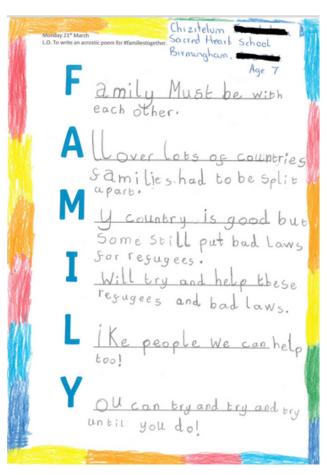
I cry all the way,
Love is broken,
You would be happy if you see your family.

Humayyah and Fatima, Bordesley Village Primary School (Year 5)

JUST ME AND YOU

It was just me and you.
It was very fun.
It was very fun until war come.
When war came I was very sad.
You were not here to accompany me.
But now that war started you and I were separated.

Hayat, Cromwell Primary (Year 4)



Chizitelum, Sacred Heart School (7 Years old)

Summer Edition Competition

This term we have a very special competition!

Children are invited to submit designs for the 2022 Sanctuary Christmas and Festive Season cards along the theme of welcome, peace and belonging. These cards will be available to buy on the City of Sanctuary website and advertised to the over 115 local City of Sanctuary community groups across the UK and our many supporting organisations, with all profit going straight to support the ongoing activities of City of Sanctuary UK, including the School of Sanctuary programme.

To submit, send a high quality PNG scan/photo of participating children's A6-size designs. Sending more than one submission? Email us a zip-folder with each submission titled: child's name - year group - school name).





EMERGENCY FUNDRAISER

The Vital Role of Schools of Sanctuary





The past academic year has seen schools rapidly responding to crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine, making sure the thousands of young children seeking sanctuary in the UK are welcomed and appropriately supported in schools.

Whilst some schools have a long tradition of welcoming and supporting students from sanctuary-seeking backgrounds, others will have little recent experience. Our Schools of Sanctuary network is all about making education safe, welcoming and empowering – for everyone.

With sanctuary seeking children entering classrooms in more schools across the UK than ever, the Schools of Sanctuary programme is increasingly being recognised as a useful tool for schools to develop their approaches to meeting the needs of the newest members of their student communities.

We are offering more resources than ever before: newsletters, webinars, policy advice and learning resources, and every day we are getting more enquiries and requests for support. We now manage a network of over 340 schools with another 300 schools working towards the award.

This is interest like we've never seen before.

We are determined to keep the Schools of Sanctuary resources and awards free and accessible for every school, but we need your support to keep going.

Can your school make a donation or organise fundraising efforts to help us continue to support schools to welcome children seeking sanctuary?

If you can, please chip in to <u>our emergency</u> <u>fundraiser.</u>

Can't donate? Another way to support us is to shop at the Sanctuary Sore for all the tees and totes you need to say it loud, say it clear: "refugees are welcome here!"

Go to the Sanctuary Store







Connect and Engage Schools of Sanctuary Website

The Schools of Sanctuary website has a wealth of information and resources for those interested in becoming a School of Sanctuary and for those who have already been recognised to continue to learn and embed positive policies and practices. We're constantly updating so check back regularly for the latest.

Want to know more about a certain topic or in need of a particular resource? Get in touch with Megan at megan@uk.city of sanctuary.org and we will see if we can share or develop something to help you.

Connect with Schools of Sanctuary

Follow us on Facebook and our new Twitter account for the latest news, events, resources and chat...





Connect with City of Sanctuary UK

Follow City of Sanctuary UK on Facebook and Twitter for news across the network and to learn more about working to make the UK a place of welcome, safety and respect.









Schools of Sanctuary