



Bristol City of Sanctuary

Schools and Colleges of Sanctuary Winter Newsletter 2024



Please find below information on:

- News
- Support for families
- Staff Training
- Resources
- Contact Us

News

We the Curious will host our Summer Award Ceremony

We are delighted to share that the Annual Schools of Sanctuary Celebration 2025 is at We the Curious on Friday the 27th of June. We are proud that 15 primary and secondary schools, as well as the first nursery have signed the pledge, and are on their way to becoming places of welcome for pupils and their families. We thank We The Curious for their generosity in offering us their wonderful venue for this event and their further offer of free access to the museum for students to visit and explore after the ceremony.

We the Curious have signed the City of Sanctuary pledge, and aim to be a welcoming and safe place for all. They offer free entry for refugees and asylum seekers, it is one of many initiatives they run to support those who are often marginalized in our communities and may have limited access to educational and cultural experiences. Ticket information [We the Curious](#)





Support for Families

Please share this information with your sanctuary seeking families through school networks such as newsletters or your school website.

Bristol Refugee Job Fair



Held on Tuesday 28th January 2025, at 10:30am-1:30pm, the location will be emailed to those that register. Join us at our in-person Job Fair where you can connect with employers who are eager to hire talented individuals like you. This event is a great chance to network, access career advice, learn about job openings, and even schedule interviews on the spot. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to kickstart your career in a welcoming environment. Contact: Email onefrontdoor@bristol.gov.uk Phone number: 0117 922 3440 Website: [One Front Door – Careers, education and events across Bristol.](https://www.onefrontdoor.co.uk/careers-education-events)

Tickets for the event are available [here](#).

eVisa Support

We are concerned that there are families who will need support in transitioning to eVisas. This is incredibly important as the current system of biometric residence permits expires on the 31st of December. Your families may need support in understanding and completing this process. Detailed guidance is available [here](#). Families should sign up for eVisas at gov.uk/eVisa, and please strongly encourage parents and carers to create accounts for their children.



Your Holiday Hub

[Your Holiday Hub](#) is funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. It offers **exciting, enriching activities and nutritious meals** for school-aged children eligible for

benefits-related free school meals during the school breaks. Children who aren't eligible for benefits-related free school meals can still join in the fun through Open Access sessions. If your child has special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), please contact the activity provider directly to discuss how they can best support your child's needs.

The Bristol Bike Project (BPP)

[The BBP](#) offers people seeking asylum or with refugee status and unable to work, the opportunity to get out on two wheels. They accept donations of bikes, and are always looking for volunteers. They have three schemes:

- [Earn-A-Bike](#) - refurbish a donated bike, learn basic maintenance skills and the bike is then yours to cycle away
- [The Social Cycle](#) - learn new bike maintenance skills, drink tea, chat and have fun, no previous experience required, Friday 10:30-1:30pm
- [After School Bikes](#) - free, drop-in workshops for young people aged 8-18 yrs to learn how to fix their bike, Fridays 3-5:30pm



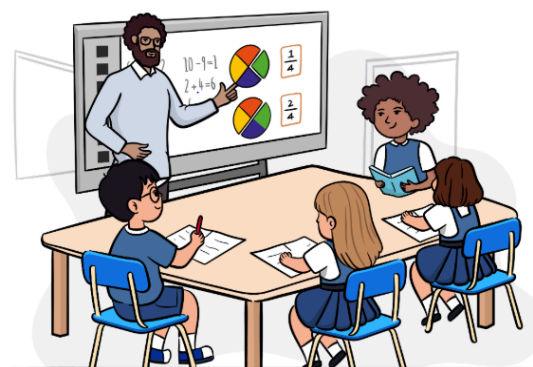
Staff Training

Supporting Refugees and Asylum-Seeking Pupils in Schools (SRASPS)

Bristol Schools of Sanctuary and the Bristol Attendance and Belonging team run termly SRASPS meetings. We aim to provide an opportunity for those working with sanctuary seekers to meet together and share the best possible support and current guidance. These meetings host speakers who can give expert advice. The next meeting will focus on how to support the mental health and wellbeing of sanctuary seeking pupils, we hope to have speakers from the ARC, the Haven and Off the Record. It will be held on zoom on Thursday 6th Feb, 1:30-3pm. If you are interested in this great opportunity, please contact Helen.Starr@bristol.gov.uk.

EAL Guidance - The Bell Foundation

The Bell Foundation provides English as an Additional Language (EAL) assessment tools, workshops and training. We highly recommend their EAL policy guidance - [How to Write an EAL School Policy](#). Visit their [website](#) for more information and sign up to their [newsletter](#) so that all these resources can be sent directly to your inbox. Some highlights include:



- [Blog](#): Seven ways to ensure oracy programmes are effective for EAL learners
- [Sign up](#): Online course on whole-school EAL strategy running in January
- [Free webinar](#) "How can schools support EAL learners arriving from Year 9 and beyond?"
- Ideas for supporting EAL learners through 'Talk to writing' and 'Translanguaging' activities (video)
- Free teaching resources to help ELA students understand terminology regarding: [BODMAS](#), [DNA](#), [multiplication and division](#), [scientific method](#).

International Rescue Committee - Healing Classrooms



We strongly recommend this free training (6 sessions) for staff, which gives a positive, trauma-informed approach to welcoming sanctuary seekers and helping them thrive in your school. These sessions are held at either 9:30am or after school. They have added new sessions for 2025 to their [website](#)! They have spaces available for January, February and March sessions. Register:

- [2025 EYFS](#)
- [2025 CPD](#)
- [2025 Healing Classrooms Basics](#)



Bristol City of Sanctuary

IRC also provide resources for



- **Mental health support for Ukrainian children**, interactive, mental health children's [handbook](#).
- **Helping English Language Learners Develop a Love of Reading** - This [article](#) details ideas and strategies to help build a culture and love of reading in the classroom with children who are new to English.

Resources

Updated leaflets from Bristol Refugee Rights about the different support available for newly arrived families in Bristol, translated into different languages

These are very informative, they can be given out to families in an induction meeting or available on your website. They can be found [here](#).



Learn English in Bristol and beyond

[This network](#) provides information about the ESOL classes, courses and conversation clubs in the city – all in one place. It is also a place to find learning and teaching resources, relevant reports and links to organisations that may be useful to ESOL learners.

For free training for **Ukrainians** or general advice please reach out to marina.morris@hotmail.co.uk

Contact Schools of Sanctuary

If you would like any information about how to support your sanctuary seeking pupils or want to sign up for this newsletter, please contact:

Tess McNab and Ruth Pickersgill on
education@bristol.cityofsanctuary.org

