

FAQs - Resettled Refugee Children in Warwickshire Schools

Question 1	Are there any unaccompanied refugee children who arrive as part of the UK Resettlement Scheme or Afghan Resettlement Schemes?
Answer	<p>The children who are part of the UK Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Resettlement schemes are all accompanied by their families.</p> <p>Children who arrive outside the scheme, unaccompanied by their families, are supported by the Asylum and Leaving Care Team at WCC.</p>
Question 2	Will school staff have access to dedicated training/information on resettled refugee children and families?
Answer	<p>Free Information/Training sessions are arranged at intervals during the year organised through the International Office for Migration (IOM). The training gives a background to relevant countries such as Syria and Afghanistan. It covers cultural awareness as well as providing the background to the different conflicts. If you would like to attend a course, please contact cathyboyce@warwickshire.gov.uk</p>
Question 3	Are resettled refugee children likely to be experiencing psychological problems/trauma?
Answer	<p>Children's reactions to traumatic events differ vastly due to a range of factors such as nature of the trauma, age of the child, child's personality etc. The quality of care and provision provided by the host country is a key factor in helping the child to overcome psychological stress. Being happy in a new school, making friends, feeling a sense of belonging and being able to achieve at school are fundamental to the wellbeing of the child. In short, refugee children should be regarded simply as children first. No amount of counselling will enable a child to feel happy and settled if they are encountering racism at school or do not feel they are making any educational progress. Schools are advised to examine their anti-bullying and pastoral care policies to include the social and emotional needs of refugee children.</p>
Question 4	How will schools communicate with children and families who are at the early stages of learning English?

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<p>Answer</p>	<p>Establishing an effective partnership with parents is proven to be the key to success for all children. In the case of refugee children and families, this is a crucial aspect of support for the child. All the resettled refugee families in Warwickshire have designated family support workers to help them to integrate into their new life here. Initial home-school liaison can be established through this network with the view to families becoming familiar with school communication processes. For example, through email / text message / education platforms. Additionally, EMTAS provides dual language resources that promote home-school links and support the parents in understanding the English education system.</p>
<p>Question 5</p>	<p>What is the role of the Support Worker?</p>
	<p>The role of the support worker is to increase the family's independence in the UK through working in a restorative way. Initially working intensively to help families become accustomed with the education system. This may involve initially supporting parents to become familiar with school location, transport, times etc. Additionally, they will support parents to receive and process information using translation tools with the goal being that parents and school staff can communicate independently from the support worker as soon as is possible.</p>
<p>Question 6</p>	<p>How are those families who arrive through the Community Sponsorship Route supported?</p>
	<p>Community Sponsorship is a Home Office scheme that enables small community groups and charities to sponsor a refugee family to resettle in the UK.</p> <p>If a family arrives via this route, then the charity or community group is responsible for all aspects of the family's support and integration in the UK. You will need to liaise with the Community Sponsorship Group, not the LA, regarding any support needs or ongoing issues the family may have. You will be informed ahead of arrival if the family is arriving via this route.</p>
<p>Question 7</p>	<p>Can refugee children be placed out of their chronological year group?</p>

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Answer	<p>Most children are taught in their normal year group, however parents/carers can request for their child to be placed outside their chronological year group. To give such requests careful consideration WCC has guidance for parents, carers and schools when considering requests for children to be educated out of year group. Schools must be satisfied that the request is in the best interest of the child and is only agreed where there is strong evidence to support the request. The advice can be found on WCC website</p> <p>https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-699-811</p>
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Question 8	<p>What prior schooling experience have the children had?</p>
Answer	<p>The children will have a range of schooling experience depending on the age of the child and the availability of schooling before arrival in UK. EMTAS advisory teachers carry out a family interview and an initial report with background information is shared with school so that they can effectively plan for the child's arrival using the EMTAS induction guidance provided. The initial focus is on inclusion and pastoral aspects of learning; making the child feel welcomed, safe, valued and secure and ready for learning.</p>

Question 9	<p>If needed, is transport provided by the Local Authority?</p>
Answer	<p>Warwickshire has in place a transport policy and information on applying for free transport or purchasing a vacant seat. There are rules that must be met before free travel assistance to be offered. The policy can be found at</p> <p>http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/transporthehelpunder16</p>

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Question 10	Are the families entitled to Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium Funding?
Answer	Once a school place is offered, arrangements will be made to ensure children receive free school meals. The LA will arrange for the children to be added to the 'FSM' database. This will enable schools to apply for 'PPF'. This additional funding will be used by the school to support child/ren.

Question 11	What additional funding and support will schools receive?
Answer	<p>There is funding available for the provision of additional support to help resettled refugee children settle in schools. Funding available is based on the child's age on the date of arrival and is £2,250 per child aged 3-4 and £4,500 per child aged 5-18. This is a one-off payment.</p> <p>In Warwickshire, UKRS and Afghan schemes education funding is split 50/50 between EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service) and schools.</p> <p>Support to schools: EMTAS are funded to offer additional specialist support to all refugee children arriving through the UKRS and Afghan schemes, as well as offering specialist training, support and coordination to schools in Warwickshire working with refugee pupils</p> <p>EMTAS provide the following for all children arriving through the UKRS and Afghan Resettlement Schemes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaising with the School Admission Service and schools to support appropriate school placement 2. An initial family interview to gather relevant background information on children/young people to determine their educational needs (ahead of starting school). 3. Liaison with school to discuss the appropriate and most effective school induction plan, strategies, resources and assessment and progress review. 4. Capacity building e.g. advice & guidance/ EAL new arrivals' training, EAL Network meetings etc. 5. Further home school liaison support in 'high profile' cases e.g. at risk of exclusion etc.

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	<p>Payments to Schools For children aged 3 to 4, the school will receive a payment of £1,125 For children aged 5 to 18, the school will receive a payment of £2,250.</p> <p>For payments to be processed in a timely manner, please advise cathyboyce@warwickshire.gov.uk the contact details of the person in your setting dealing with finance and the EAL co-ordinator. Payments will be made 6 months after the child starts at the school. If a child changes school after less 6 months then the payment will be split between the two schools.</p> <p>Following are examples of how the funding should be spent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform purchase • Specialist support to meet learning needs e.g. direct teaching sessions from an outside agency; increase of TA's hours, EAL resources etc. • Additional activities, e.g. music lessons, after school clubs, school trips etc. • Specialist support to meet social, emotional and mental health needs, e.g. Nurture etc. <p>Schools should keep track of how the funding is spent and provide a brief summary to the UKRS team at the Local Authority one year after the family's arrival. Please send this to cathyboyce@warwickshire.gov.uk</p>
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Question 12	How long will the families remain in Warwickshire?
Answer	<p>Our experience with working with families on the Refugee Resettlement Scheme has shown that most families resettled to Warwickshire have chosen to remain long term in Warwickshire County. However, resettled families have the same rights as other UK citizens and can choose to live anywhere in the UK. Their accommodation in Warwickshire has been provided by the District and Borough Councils. Families can choose to remain at these addresses or can move to other properties in other locations at any time.</p>

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Question 13	Are the families entitled to work / receive state benefits?
Answer	The families have indefinite leave to remain which entitles them to work and/or to receive state benefits in the same way as any other UK citizen. Families are taken to pre-arranged meetings at the DWP within the first few days of their arrival in the country and are supported by a support worker to make a claim for benefits.
Question 14	Do the children have to take statutory tests such as SATs etc?
Answer	As with other pupils at the early stages of EAL, these children are exempt from inclusion in school data for a period of two years. A head teacher can choose to include results if they desire to do so.
Question 15	Would a phased integration programme benefit the children?
Answer	Resettled refugee children have often missed out on their education as a result of war and conflict. Further delays to accessing full time education in the host country are unwarranted. Moreover, research shows that rapid school enrolment supports refugee families' integration into the community. School routines establish a sense of much needed normality and purpose to the lives of all family members. Additionally, children will quickly learn English through interaction with their peer group in school.
Question 16	What other local support agencies / partners can school make links with locally?
Answer	WCC work with a range of local support agencies and partners to provide support to the families. If you would like more information please contact cathyboyce@warwickshire.gov.uk