

Becoming A School of Sanctuary



Agenda

Introductions

What is a School of Sanctuary?

Resources

Three Key Principles

Signs of Success

Recognition



What is a School of Sanctuary?

- A place of welcome, safety, and inclusion, especially for families seeking sanctuary and who faced danger in their own countries or communities here in Ireland.
- A school that helps students, staff and the wider community understand what it means to seek sanctuary or refuge.



Resources to Begin your Journey

- The Resource Pack [Resources \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](https://cityofsanctuary.org)
- The website: <https://schools-ireland.cityofsanctuary.org/>
- Recorded videos and webinars
- Other schools on the journey
- Sanctuary Ambassadors and the Schools of Sanctuary Team

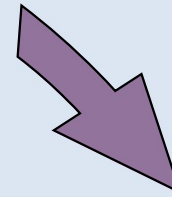
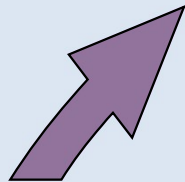


Getting Started

- Ensure that the whole school is involved in the process, including management, board and parents' association
- Share the Charter and Pledge and involve students and staff in signing it
- Form a School of Sanctuary committee including class and staff representatives
- Begin to plan events and start gathering a portfolio record of your journey (padlet.com)

The 3 Principles

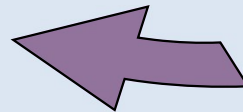
1) Learn



3) Share



2) Action



1) Learn



- Learn what it means to seek sanctuary
 - Hear the stories of refugees first hand
 - Understand and value the different cultures in the school and area
- (Resources on website)

2) Action



- Make sure that the school feels and looks welcoming for newcomers – including those who don't know English
- Celebrate diversity
- Involve the whole school and a representative sanctuary committee

3) Share



- Share your findings with the wider community
- Include a mention of School of Sanctuary in events such as parents' evenings
- Tell other schools in your area or group about what you are doing
- Make sure your school of sanctuary journey is visible in the school and on the website

More on 3 principles: <https://schools-ireland.cityofsanctuary.org/become-a-school-of-sanctuary/3-principles-of-schools-of-sanctuary>

Examples of What SoS Do

- Invite newcomers to share their culture & stories in diversity celebrations
- Help students to understand what it means to be a refugee (age appropriate)
- Prioritise English Language and other supports for students with EAL needs
- Invite Sanctuary Ambassadors to share their experiences
- Help newly arriving families to understand the education system and supports
- Involve the whole school in building a culture of welcome and inclusion



Signs of Success



- Better learning outcomes among all students, including those from refugee/minority backgrounds
- Increased confidence in students with Eal needs
- Strong feeling of welcome and inclusion
- Refugee & newcomer parents involved in school activities, parents' groups etc.
- Celebration and respect of all cultures
- Whole school committed to welcoming newcomers

Recognition

- Check the list of minimum criteria and begin to record your activities
- Gradually with the committee build a portfolio which can be shared widely
- Arrange for a Schools of Sanctuary team to visit your school and view your portfolio
- Make sure the work you do is embedded and sustainable
- Regard recognition as a celebration



THANK YOU

To get involved, or for more information:



<https://schools-ireland.cityofsanctuary.org/>



tiffy@ireland.cityofsanctuary.org



[SofSIreland](#)

