



Providing a life-enhancing education that develops the character, talents and potential of every child

ACHIEVEMENT ~ DIVERSITY ~ RESPECT

Headteacher: Ms Jo Butler

Monday 18 August 2025 at 13:30

## An Open Letter to Bristol Patriots: Standing Firm on Our Values

### From the Cotham School Community

We are writing to address a recent letter sent to our school by a group calling themselves "Bristol Patriots" that contains serious misinformation about our educational partnerships and makes deeply concerning claims about refugee children and families in our community.

### Our Response

We unequivocally reject the divisive rhetoric and false claims made in this correspondence. Our school is proud to be part of Bristol's welcoming community, and we will not be intimidated into abandoning our core educational values.

**Our partnership with City of Sanctuary UK** represents exactly the kind of compassionate, educational work we should be doing with young people. This organisation supports schools in developing empathy, global citizenship, and understanding of displacement – vital skills for young people growing up in an interconnected world. Any activities undertaken are age-appropriate, curriculum-linked, and designed to build understanding and kindness.

**The characterisation of refugees in the letter is factually wrong and morally reprehensible.** Refugees are people who have fled persecution, war, and violence. They undergo extensive background checks and legal processes. To suggest that encouraging empathy toward displaced people constitutes "grooming" represents a profound misunderstanding of both safeguarding and basic human decency.

Cotham School, Cotham Lawn Road, Bristol, BS6 6DT | 0117 919 8000 | [info@cotham.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:info@cotham.bristol.sch.uk) | [www.cotham.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.cotham.bristol.sch.uk)



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Registered in England: Company Number 07732888

Registered Office: Cotham School, Cotham Lawn Road, Cotham, Bristol BS6 6DT



## Our Values in Action

As an educational institution, we are committed to:

- **Welcoming all children** regardless of their background, including those who have experienced displacement and trauma
- **Teaching critical thinking** rather than accepting inflammatory rhetoric without evidence
- **Building community cohesion** through understanding and shared humanity
- **Following evidence-based safeguarding practices** developed by professionals, not politically motivated groups

Our diverse school community, which includes children from many backgrounds, including refugee families, makes us stronger. These children bring resilience, different perspectives, and often remarkable academic dedication despite the challenges they've faced.

## Moving Forward Together

We will continue our educational mission without interference from those who seek to divide our community. We encourage 'Bristol Patriots' to:

- **Seek accurate information** from credible sources rather than accepting inflammatory claims
- **Support all children in our Bristol community** as they learn and grow together
- **Stand against rhetoric** that seeks to demonise vulnerable people, especially children

Education is about opening minds, building understanding, and preparing young people to be thoughtful citizens. We will not allow fear-mongering to undermine this vital work.

Our doors remain open to respectful dialogue with any community member who shares our commitment to the well-being and education of all children.

**Together, we build a community where every child can thrive.**

**Jo Butler**  
**Headteacher**  
**18 August 2025**



Dear Head Teacher / Governors,

We are Bristol Patriots, a movement in Bristol that has been set up to highlight the failures of our government and, specifically, the Home Office. We want it to be known that we will not allow it to continue. It has come to our attention that your school/nursery/sixth form has established a connection and is working alongside City Of Sanctuary UK.

City Of Sanctuary UK is a very dangerous organization attempting to indoctrinate our children in Bristol and across the UK. They are encouraging children to write Valentine's Day cards, love letters, and pledges to illegal migrants in the area.

These migrants, to whom our children are writing these letters, are, in some cases, the same migrants who are on our streets sexually assaulting and raping our women and children. By allowing this to happen in your school, you are condoning and enabling such actions. Engaging children in these kinds of activities constitutes the early stages of grooming. This must stop now. This is politics in the classroom, using our children as propaganda tools to normalize mass immigration and posing a serious risk to safeguarding children.

The migrants currently in hotels up and down the country are predominantly men of fighting age (90% of migrants coming on boats are all men) who often lack documents, and we have no possible way of finding out about their criminal backgrounds.

The way City Of Sanctuary UK is gaining access to children in our schools is highly dangerous and represents the very start of grooming our children by encouraging them to write these letters to dangerous men. We have already heard from teachers and Parents from schools that have made these connections with City Of Sanctuary UK, stating that they were never consulted before this was introduced into the school and that they strongly disagree with it and want it stopped with immediate effect.

We ask you to do the right thing and cut all ties with City Of Sanctuary UK IMMEDIATELY and stop putting the children in your school at serious risk. This letter is the beginning of the action we will be taking. Groups across the country are already exploring various ways to put a stop to this now, but we hope by reading this letter and conducting some of your own research, you will see why this must stop in all schools now.

Yours sincerely,

Bristol Patriots

For Our Children, For Our Future