

A DAY OF WELCOME

Teachers' Guide

Friday 12 June 2026

A Day of Welcome is an annual day of solidarity and learning in schools that aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for people seeking sanctuary.

Celebrated by over 820 schools in 2025, it's designed to support teachers in kickstarting Refugee Week by providing free live events, resources and activities for pupils of all ages.

[Register now](#)

[Our Website](#)

Why get involved?

- ✓ Build a culture of welcome, belonging and solidarity in your school for those seeking sanctuary
- ✓ Share stories of refugee migration, local and global, past and present, with your pupils Better educate and support your refugee pupils and their families
- ✓ A Day of Welcome helps your school to meet its legal and statutory duties.

THIS DOCUMENT GIVES AN OVERVIEW

of the various resources, live events, activities and ideas that we will be sharing for A Day of Welcome 2026.

Refugee Week 15-21 June 2026

The theme for A Day of Welcome and Refugee Week 2026 is "Courage", which comes from the Latin term cor, meaning "heart." For refugees around the world, courage is often a daily necessity. It is the courage to face unknown journeys, learn new languages, navigate unfamiliar systems, or simply to wake up each morning and step into an uncertain world.

Through art, stories, and community, we celebrate the courage that lives within us all – and how connection helps it grow.

[Refugee week website](#)

Key partners::



With support from:



Organised by:

Anglia Ruskin University & Schools of Sanctuary



a.r.u. | Anglia Ruskin University



What could a Day of Welcome LOOK LIKE IN MY SETTING?

Every school is unique, so
A Day of Welcome can be
tailored to fit your setting.
Below are some ideas for
what you might do:

Straightforward ✨ ✨

- **Join us for one of our live events**
 - Join our five FREE online events for pupils and educators, which feature people with lived experience of forced displacement
- **Hold an assembly or deliver a lesson**
 - Use FREE resources developed by us or our partners to explore this year's theme for Refugee Week, "Courage"



A bit more effort ✨ ✨ ✨

- **Pupil voice and agency**
 - Involve your pupils directly in planning and delivering activities for Day of Welcome and Refugee Week
- **Improve provision for refugee pupils**
 - Follow our suggestions to improve how you support pupils and their families who are affected by forced displacement
- **Signpost Refugee Week**
 - Share local and national events of interest and involve your school community in Refugee Week
- **Fundraise**
 - Hold a non-uniform day to raise funds for Schools of Sanctuary or a local organisation that supports people seeking sanctuary

Really going for it! ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨

- **A whole day or week of activities**
 - Timetable a whole day or week of learning to deepen your pupils' understanding of migration and seeking sanctuary
- **Explore your area's migration history**
 - Share stories of local migration and involve parents and carers in showcasing and celebrating the diversity of your community
- **Get creative and hold an exhibition!**
 - Use our resources to inspire your pupils to respond creatively to their learning



The start of something bigger! ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨

- **Your Schools of Sanctuary journey**
 - Kick-start your journey to become a School of Sanctuary and help build a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary.
Learn more at <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>

If your school is already accredited, A Day of Welcome is a perfect focal point to celebrate and strengthen this commitment.





WHAT TO EXPECT THIS YEAR

For a Day of Welcome

We have a new format for Day of Welcome 2026!

Here's a sneak peek of what's coming.

Register to participate and everything you need to hold your Day of Welcome will be available on Friday 17th April.

Register now

ASSEMBLY



Kickstart the conversation with an assembly for A Day of Welcome - planned and ready to go!

LIVE EVENTS



Join our FREE online events in which pupils and teachers can hear directly from people with lived experience of forced displacement (for all ages)

LESSONS & ACTIVITIES



New resources from the Day of Welcome team and our partners that speak to the 'courage' theme of Refugee Week (for all ages)

READ, WATCH, LISTEN



Recommended films, books, and podcasts - for adults and children - to support you in learning more about forced displacement

REFUGEE EDUCATION



The latest training and guidance to help schools to support pupils and their families who have come to the UK seeking sanctuary

FOR HOME



Activities to share with your school community to take the learning beyond the classroom and get pupils' families involved.

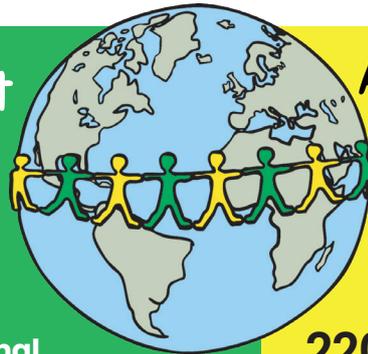
More reasons to take part in A Day of Welcome!

A Day of Welcome supports schools to meet their legal and statutory duties, including:

- ✓ Supports Equality Act 2010
- ✓ Promotes British Values
- ✓ Fulfils Ofsted's 'Behaviour and Attitudes' and 'Personal Development' criteria
- ✓ Supports Prevent Duty
- ✓ Encourages SMSC Development
- ✓ Professional Development on Refugee Education
- ✓ Promotes a positive and respectful culture
- ✓ Builds active citizenship skills

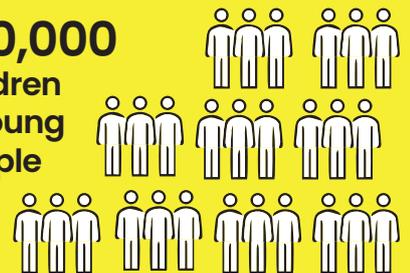
For further details, please see

[Our Website](#)



A Day of Welcome 2025 was the **BIGGEST** and **BEST** yet!

220,000
children
& young
people



821+
Schools

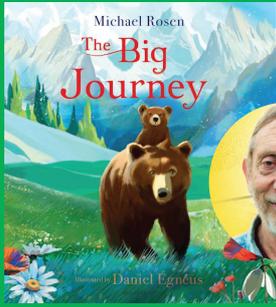




LIVE EVENTS

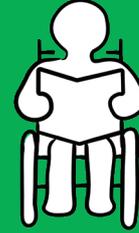
(open to any school in the UK or globally)

These ever-popular live online events are fully funded and delivered in collaboration with our partners:



Storytime with Michael Rosen

Join much loved author and poet Michael Rosen, as he reads his latest picture book *The Big Journey* – the heartwarming sequel to *The Big Dreaming* – which sees Big Bear and Little Bear set out on a Big Journey to find a new home.



For pupils aged 5 – 7
but also suitable for older children.

9 – 9.35am
Friday 12 June

[Register here](#)



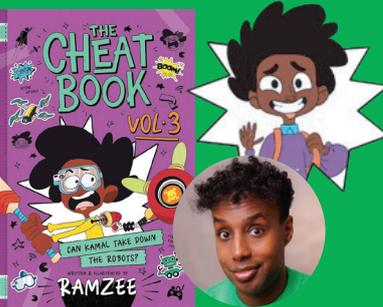
Meet and greet with Dina and Ayman

Come along and meet Dina and Ayman. They will share some aspects of their cultural heritage and reflect on their experiences of seeking sanctuary. Through stories and conversation, your pupils will build understanding and empathy while we celebrate our diverse communities and multicultural country.

For pupils aged 7 – 9
but also suitable for older children.

11 – 11.45am
Friday 12 June

[Register here](#)



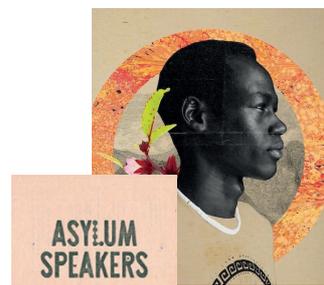
The Cheat Book drawalong with Ramzee

In this collaboration with Empathy Lab, author-illustrator Ramzee will bring to life the laugh-out-loud *The Cheat Book* series. Drawing on his experiences as a cartoonist, storyteller and coming to the UK as a refugee, in this interactive session your pupils will be drawing, thinking and getting their empathy on!

For pupils aged 9 – 11
but also suitable for older children.

1.30 – 2.15pm
Friday 12 June

[Register here](#)



Asylum Speakers with Giel

Meet Giel, a South Sudanese refugee who recently set out to walk the length of the UK to raise money for charity. As an inspirational speaker with a remarkable story, he will motivate and inform your pupils, offering practical ways to build a community of welcome and belonging in your school.

For pupil voice groups
at secondary schools

2 – 3pm
Tuesday 28 April

[Register here](#)



Teacher CPD with Gulwali and Giel

In partnership with Amnesty International and Asylum Speakers, in this session you will hear firsthand from people who have faced forced displacement, focusing on their experiences of UK schools as both parents and pupils. It will help you better understand how to support displaced families in your setting.

For educators
in primary and secondary schools

4 – 5pm
Tuesday 22 Sept

[Register here](#)

[VIEW ALL OF THE EVENTS HERE!](#)