

Brighton & Hove Nursery, School and College of Sanctuary Programme

What is the Schools of Sanctuary Programme?

Brighton & Hove is part of the [City of Sanctuary](https://cityofsanctuary.org/) movement which aims to:

- celebrate common humanity and contributions made by those who have come here for safety
- tackle isolation, fear, and exclusion by creating a culture of welcome.

“City of Sanctuary UK stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in calling for justice and the need to address the root causes of racism. We stand firmly in solidarity with all those who struggle against racism and xenophobia” <https://cityofsanctuary.org/2020/06/23/solidarity-with-blacklivesmatter/>

[Sanctuary on Sea](https://cityofsanctuary.org/) is one of some 120 City of Sanctuary groups across the country. Brighton & Hove was recognised as a city of sanctuary in 2015 and is currently going through a process of re-accreditation (2021).

Other cities of sanctuary have run schools of sanctuary programmes defining a school of sanctuary as:

a school that helps its students, staff and wider community understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary and to extend a welcome to everyone as equal, valued members of the school community. It is a school that is proud to be a place of safety and inclusion for all.

For examples of projects and some excellent support materials see the City of Sanctuary website: [Schools of Sanctuary | Building a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](https://cityofsanctuary.org/schools-of-sanctuary/)

There is already work going on in Brighton & Hove educational settings (with support from the Council and community and voluntary sector groups) to improve practice related to equality and diversity. Becoming a school of sanctuary contributes to meeting duties under the Equality Act 2010, to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and students and the embedding of positive school values. Supporting all pupils and students to develop a sense of belonging and positive identity supports learning and protects against radicalisation. The Nursery, School and College of Sanctuary programme is for all settings, not just those with refugee children because it prepares all pupils and students to understand and work in the world around them.

Brighton & Hove Council in partnership with Sanctuary on Sea steering group would like to encourage settings to develop existing good practice so that their nursery, school or college becomes a place of sanctuary, welcome and belonging. Locally, we have designed the programme to be manageable, meaningful and to support settings to engage in an ongoing process. Educational settings become settings of Sanctuary by:

1. Supporting the whole setting and its community to learn about what it means to be seeking sanctuary **(LEARN)**
2. Taking positive action to embed concepts of sanctuary, welcome, safety, belonging and inclusion within your setting and the wider community **(EMBED)**
3. Share and celebrate your vision as a nursery, school or college of sanctuary and welcome, and share your good practice with other settings **(SHARE)**.

This programme is open to schools, early years' settings and colleges. We are delighted [Sanctuary on Sea](https://cityofsanctuary.org/) are our partners in this project.

Further resources and examples of successful projects are provided on the Schools of Sanctuary page of [BEEM](#) and on the Schools of Sanctuary website [Resources \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](https://www.cityofsanctuary.org/resources)

What do we need to do to be a Nursery, School or College of Sanctuary?

1. Sign-up

Sign up to the national [organisational pledge](#), committing the school to acknowledge and support the [CoS charter & organisational values](#) and sign up to the Brighton & Hove Sanctuary on Sea pledge [Pledge Support/signup \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](#)

Sign-up to the national School of Sanctuary Newsletter for information about webinars and new resources: [Schools newsletter sign up | City of Sanctuary](#)

2. Working party

Bring together a group that includes different staff, a governor, someone or some people from the community who has lived experience of being a refugee or migrant. Ideally a parent or carer and young person.

3. Carry out an audit of practice.

Schools and Early Years Settings

You can use the Schools of Sanctuary Self-Assessment form for this purpose: [Resources \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](#) or the Brighton & Hove Schools of Sanctuary Action Planning grid below.

Colleges

Undertake an audit of practice using the minimum criteria listed here [CoS-Sanctuary-Award-Criteria.docx.pdf \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](#) and or use or the Brighton & Hove Schools of Sanctuary Action Planning grid below.

4. Plan and take action

Schools and Early Years Settings

Use the Brighton & Hove suggested activities grid and the Schools of Sanctuary Resource pack to plan and deliver activities [Resources \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](#)

Colleges

Use the Brighton & Hove suggested activities grid and the Colleges of Sanctuary Resource pack to plan and delivery activities [Resources \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](#)

5. Complete and submit application form*

Schools, Early Years Settings and Colleges

When you have sufficient evidence for Schools of Sanctuary please complete the Application Form [Sanctuary Awards \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](#) and submit to schools.sanctuary@brighton-hove.gov.uk

6. Review and award

Your application will be reviewed by the Council and by Sanctuary on Sea, including people with lived experience. You may receive a phone call or be asked to briefly meet with someone who has reviewed the application form to provide further information or evidence. You will then be sent a letter and certificate affirming your award.

The Application Form*

- Guidance on completing the application form can be found here: [Resources \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](#). **The Application Form is the only piece of paper-work we expect to see.**
- In Brighton & Hove we are not expecting a full portfolio of evidence although we will be sharing these applications on BEEM so that any good practice in them is also shared. Where it is possible to share evidence easily i.e via links to information on the website please include. Where you have undertaken an innovative piece of work we would welcome more detailed descriptions of this with examples so that other settings can learn from your practice.
- We will redact any information that identifies individuals from the application form prior to sharing it.

How will our good practice be recognised?

1. Your submission of evidence form will be reviewed by the Council and by Sanctuary on Sea.
2. You will receive a dated certificate from Sanctuary by Sea acknowledging the work you have done to be a School of Sanctuary, valid for three years.
3. Your certificate could be presented by a representative from Sanctuary by Sea at a school assembly or other event (as requested by the setting)
4. Your submission of evidence form will be posted on the Schools of Sanctuary BEEM page so that your good practice is shared across the City

Where can we access support?

1. Attend local and national events, networks and training that will be promoted via email, the schools' bulletin and [Schools of Sanctuary | Building a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](http://cityofsanctuary.org)
2. Visit the Schools of Sanctuary page on BEEM - <http://www.beem.org.uk/Page/10046>
3. Email schools.sanctuary@brighton-hove.gov.uk to arrange a consultancy and support visit.

Brighton & Hove Schools of Sanctuary Programme Action Planning Grid

Principles	What is already in place that supports this principle?	Identified projects or areas for development	Lead & Date for project completion
1. Learn about what it means to be seeking sanctuary			
2a. Create a welcoming environment in school for pupils (and parents, carers) from different cultures			
2b. Incorporate the concepts of welcome, safety, inclusion and belonging into curricular and extra-curricular activities			
2c. Involve refugees and asylum seekers in the day to day life of the school			
3. Share your vision and achievements in school and wider			

Visit the national Schools of Sanctuary page - <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Visit the Brighton & Hove Schools of Sanctuary page BEEM <https://www.beem.org.uk/Page/1004>