Schools of Sanctuary National Conference Workshop

23 July 2021

• Aim of this session
• Background & growth of SoS
• Why are SoSs important?
• What do schools need to do to become recognised?
• How is SoS implemented across the network?
• What support can CoS UK provide?
• Open Q & A session
Development of the SoS Stream

- Developed in Yorkshire around 2010
- Organic growth over time
- Recognition for more uniform approach in 2019
- Criteria & processes
- 325 Schools have been recognised in England, Wales & Northern Ireland
- Expanded range of resources, partnerships and webinars
- Limited capacity at CoS UK
Why do we need Schools of Sanctuary?

• Global Context: 82.4 million forcibly displaced.
• National Context: Hostile policies & inaccurate rhetoric
• Community: Promoting community cohesion
• Individual: Promote development of practices that meet the needs of newly arrived students and celebrate schools
What is a School of Sanctuary?

- Is a place of welcome for all.
- Educates about why people are forcibly displaced.
- Recognises that the UK is enriched by new arrivals.
- Supports pupils from all backgrounds to feel seen, supported & included.
How does a school become a School of Sanctuary?

- **LEARN** about what it means to be seeking sanctuary.
- **Take positive action to EMBED concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion.**
- **SHARE** your vision and achievements.
Criteria

Learn Process
- Criterion 1: Training and education opportunities are provided for school staff & management on refugee, asylum and migration issues.
- Criterion 2: Evidence of refugee/asylum/migration learning activities are included into school life and at least one example in the curriculum, across the key stages.

Embed Process
- Criterion 3: The School must demonstrate how it has embedded the concept of welcome and inclusion in the school.
- Criterion 4: Recognition of and participation in the annual Refugee Week or other annual/regular celebratory events which highlight the contribution of people seeking sanctuary and migrants to the UK.
- Criterion 5: Commitment to supporting age-appropriate active pupil voice on sanctuary and welcome/welcoming activities in the school.

Share Process
- Criterion 6: A public commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of welcome.
- Criterion 7: The school publicly highlights its activities in support of welcome and inclusion.
- Criterion 8: Commitment to on-going engagement with the Schools of Sanctuary stream.
How is SoS implemented across the network?

- CoS volunteer group led or with paid staff
- Some local authorities include SoS as part of their core work
- Partnership model between local CoS groups and Local authorities
- Schools networks - Norwich
FAQs

• Generic Awards Application form
• No Application fees - Donations welcome!
• For ALL Schools (all types/sizes/demographics)
• Lasts for 3 years & re-accreditation process
• Flexibility re: Covid-19
Next steps & how to get involved

- Visit the SoS Website
- Subscribe to the Newsletter
- Follow us on Twitter & Facebook
- Watch our Event recordings
- Attend upcoming events
- Join our JISC List
- UNCHR CPD Training in November
- Reach out to us on the SoS team to set up discussions on how we can support you
What would you like to know more about?

- Do you work with SoS?
- Do you have contact with local schools?
- What is the biggest challenge?
- Do you have contact with local Council?
- Do you need to get involved? Training, support or ideas?