



ETHNIC MINORITY
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE

Coventry Local Lead

Schools of Sanctuary Offer 2025-2026

Schools of Sanctuary is a UK-wide programme and award scheme to support schools to play their part in building a culture of welcome for everyone, but particularly people seeking sanctuary.

Please find below our local programme of FREE School of Sanctuary activities available to interested schools.

The first step for any school interested in becoming a School of Sanctuary is to [sign the supporting organisation pledge](#). We advise that a school takes at least a whole school year after this point before submitting an application.

What?	When?	Where?
Initial contact with schools encouraging an expression of interest – check schools have signed pledge/ shared in communities and on social media Access to Padlet of resources and guidance https://padlet.com/michelleandrews7/coventry-schools-of-sanctuary-llb6ck2q60xtg5nv	September 2025	Email
An introduction to Schools of Sanctuary – process, application and award	Resources - Schools of Sanctuary	16 th September 2025 4:00 Online
Online Training for Panel Members and Local Leads	Tuesday 14 th October 9am-10:30am	Online
Schools of Sanctuary – network meeting of local schools	Thursday 16 th October 4-5pm – Earlsdon Primary CV5 6FZ Tuesday 3 rd March – venue TBC Tuesday 30 th June – venue TBC	In person
Schools catch up meeting to share progress, review audit and action planning	As and when requested	In person at school
Refugee Week: Planning and Inspiration	Thursday 5 th March 2026	Online
IRC Healing Classrooms - training to support schools to develop inclusive and nurturing learning spaces	Wednesday 17 th June 2026	In person
Day of Welcome Refugee Week	Friday 12 th June 2026	In school workshops and visits.
Celebration Event – all schools that have gained SOS award invited	To be Confirmed	In person Venue TBC

For any enquiries about the Schools of Sanctuary Award process in Coventry please contact:
emasteachers@coventry.sch.uk

		Accreditation Timeline
Suggested timeline = one year	Step 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express interest in Schools of Sanctuary accreditation to Coventry EMAS local leads Secure commitment and support from SLT and governors towards becoming a SOS. Make your pledge City of Sanctuary organisational pledge. Register for SOS newsletter, follow on social media. Complete audit of existing provision - review what your school already has in place or has done to date to meet the award criteria (Learn, Embed, Share) using the audit tool to help you reflect on relevant areas of practice. Resources
	Step 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a School of Sanctuary Action Plan using the resource pack, website and Padlet for inspiration, with support from local leads. This should include evidence of sanctuary-seeker experience and forced migration within different areas of the school's curriculum i.e. different subjects, year groups, activities. Plan how you will mark Refugee Week and other key campaigns. Sign up to local and national SOS networking and CPD events Make links with local sanctuary seeking organisations e.g. CRMC, Carriers of Hope and non-sanctuary seeking organisations e.g. churches, libraries, theatres to share message of welcome.
	Step 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and submit draft application to local lead, evidencing the 8 minimum criteria (LEARN, EMBED, SHARE). Use the application guidance to help you and have a look at the example applications. Resources by 27th March 2026 Your application will be reviewed by local leads and feedback given. School responds to feedback – provide additional evidence as needed.
	Step 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final application and portfolio of evidence submitted to SOS local leads and sanctuary appraisal panel by 22nd May 2026 Sanctuary appraisal panel to meet and assess applications on Monday 8th June 2026 School visits – opportunity for assessors to meet with pupils, teachers, leadership and parents during Summer 2 half-term. Feedback given to schools – by start of Autumn 1 2026. Schools of Sanctuary status is awarded - presentation and celebration event Date: To be Confirmed. Share your news far and wide.
	Step 5	<p>After 3 years renew your pledge and status as a SOS.</p> <p>Renewal applications to be submitted by Fri 23rd January 2026.</p> <p>These will be reviewed by an appraisal panel on Monday 2nd February 2026.</p>