

Solihull Celebrates New Communities

Refugee Week takes place every June as the world's largest arts & culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Solihull Council marks the occasion by supporting a range of activities and events intended to foster greater community cohesion, closer integration and mutual understanding between all communities. This year's theme is Community As A Superpower. Read all about it here: [Simple Acts – Refugee Week](#)

Refugee Week in Schools

Read or Listen to stories of people who have migrated

Many schools across the country may invite a popular author, poet or writer from a migrant background to talk to classrooms supporting Geography, Citizenship, PSHE and English. There are now a range of books available tailored to both primary and secondary children written by individuals who have undergone a migrant journey.

Another way of supporting both our newcomers, refugees as well as our established community is to share stories of our community members with a variety of lived experiences. This creates moments of understanding and empathy as we are able to explore the ways in which we are different while building transformational relationships on the humanity that unites us.

[Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Books and Resources – Race Archive](#)

Get Creative!

- Paint, sketch or collage a picture inspired by the Refugee Week theme “Community as a Superpower”. Need inspiration? How about creating your own Refugee Week poster?
- Write a poem, song or spoken word piece exploring themes of displacement, identity, community, belonging, or resilience.
- Design a postcard and send it to a friend or family member
- With your phone or camera, document your neighbourhood or moments that represent “community as a superpower”

Geography and Migration

- Create a map for the classroom and plot the different countries you have roots in
- Explore histories of migration and Windrush stories
- The British Red Cross has a range of teaching resources on refugees and migration for primary and secondary schools linking Geography, Citizenship and PSHE (KS2, 3 and 4)

[Refugees & migration teaching resources | British Red Cross](#)

Film Club

- Watch a feature film or animated film with your class. The film may be from Hong Kong, Ukraine or any of the cultures represented in your classroom
- Discuss similarities between the film and English language ones that you may have watched before
- Host a Q & A afterwards exploring themes and character's stories

[Moving Worlds – A special film programme for Refugee Week](#)

Celebrate Community

- **Learn a Word in a Different Language**

Try learning a greeting, a thank you, or an important phrase in a different language, perhaps spoken by people in your local community or by those seeking refuge. It's a simple way to show respect and make someone feel welcome.

- **Explore Your Heritage and Share Your Story**

Take some time to reflect on your own heritage, family migration story, or cultural traditions. Learning about your roots can create an opportunity to connect with others who have similar or different experiences. Share your story with those around you!

- **Discover Initiatives in Your Community**

Take the time to discover local initiatives supporting new communities, whether it's a support group, a volunteering opportunity, or a community event. Getting involved is a wonderful way to learn more about the challenges people face and how we can help.

- **Learn the Political History of Different Countries, Including Your Own**


Understanding the political histories and conflicts that shape different countries can deepen our compassion and awareness. Take time to learn about the histories of different countries and the political, social, and economic forces that contribute to displacement. Equally, reflect on your own country's history and how it has shaped both your identity and the way you interact with the world. This broader perspective can help us better understand global movements and the shared struggles of humanity.

Walking Education & Activity Pack (EYFS, KS1, 2, 3 + 4)

Education and Activity Pack inspired by the journey of Amal, a giant puppet on a 9-year old Syrian girl who walked from the Syria/Turkey border to the UK in 2021. The pack is created for all young people with learning material and challenge activities to suit different ages. Activities include writing poems, stories, making artwork and more. The Walk in 2021 was produced by The Walk Productions and Good Chance Theatre in association with Handspring Puppet Company.

[The Walk \(Little Amal\) | Little Amal](#)

Become a School of Sanctuary!

There is a growing network of 1200 primary and secondary schools, nurseries and sixth forms all committed to creating a culture of welcome, understanding and belonging for those forced to flee. Driven by teachers, school staff, parents, governors and community groups, the network supports the thousands of children and young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, raises awareness of the experiences of people seeking safety, and plays a key role in building a culture of kindness and compassion. 

[Home - Schools of Sanctuary](#)

What else happens in Solihull during Refugee Week?

Employment and Training Events

Your school may have parents from Hong Kong, Ukraine or other parts of the world who are keen on learning or improving their English and/or want information on the various community organisations supporting local residents within the Borough.

Music Festival

Our headline event attracts hundreds of people every year. Located in Theatre Square, Solihull musicians and dancers performer to audiences that reflect the diverse range of different cultures who now call the town their home. This year the Festival takes place in Theatre Square at the Touchwood Shopping Centre on the 21st June between 10am and 4pm.

Your Event

Funded by the Together In Solihull grant programme, schools and community groups can curate their own events to celebrate the town's diversity and as a place of tolerance. Drop us a line at refugees@solihull.gov.uk to find out more.