



Ten Top Tips for Welcoming Refugee Children and Young People

What to focus on as well as the whole school, whole class strategies outlined [here](#).

1. Teach your pupils about the issues facing refugees as part of your curriculum and school activities so that they are informed and ready to welcome. Pupils should know how to make friends, what kind of questions and introductions will help them to get to know new pupils e.g. [UNICEF resources](#)
2. Be careful not to spotlight new arrivals and welcome them sensitively.
3. Be led by the child or young person on what to talk about, and focus on listening rather than asking lots of questions - e.g. focus on their interests and hobbies. Drawing offers an alternative to talking and reduces pressure on the interaction.
4. Focus on creating a safe environment that facilitates resilience (for example, consider any changes or unexpected events that might be coming up in your school day, such as fire drills or testing days, and prepare children for these).
5. Make use of visual support to reinforce key messages and to increase a sense of safety and predictability.
6. Make sure your staff feel confident about supportive strategies for the children, young people and their families.
7. Remember that refugee children and young people are not a homogenous group, and they will all have different experiences and ways of coping.
8. Be extra vigilant about supporting SEND - see [this blog](#) from the Special Need Jungle for more information, use your usual within school SEND support and follow assess, plan, do, review.
9. Engage with your EP and external agencies to plan for the needs of your pupils and reflect on your provision where appropriate.
10. Supporting unaccompanied and separated children and young people - a [comprehensive guide](#) from the AfC Virtual School and Educational Psychology Service.

See also [Bell Foundation welcoming refugee and asylum seeking pupils](#)