

## Ukraine - FAQ – frequently updated

**Q**

***I have received an application for a place at our school and we are up to our PAN in the year group. Can we still offer a place?***

**A**

You should process all applications according to your oversubscription criteria. In accordance with government guidelines OAA Schools and Academies can admit above their published admission numbers (PAN) in all year groups; admitting children of Ukrainian refugees as exceptions to the infant class size limit, if there are no reasonable alternatives. (Definition of reasonable – travel time to school should be a maximum 45 minutes for primary age children and 75 minutes for secondary aged children).

If OAA Schools and Academies would like LA advice before considering under this category, please email a copy of the pupil's application form to [schoolappeals@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolappeals@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**Q**

***We've had contact with a couple of Ukrainian families that have primary school age children, and I'm finding that the parents aren't necessarily expecting the children to start school yet, as they don't start school in Ukraine until they're age 6 or 7, (some go to kindergarten before that). Should we just accept the child into the appropriate year group according to their age? Or would they possibly need to move down a year, for example if the child doesn't speak any English?***

***Is there an LA approach to this, or do we just decide ourselves as a school?***

**A**

We are advising schools to follow the normal process when considering applications and process them in line with the Schools Admissions Code.

We would advise that schools only offer places in the correct chronological year group, as it can become complex when children move classes or change schools. Schools can choose to teach those children in a different year group if they have capacity, and where it would be in the best interest of the child, however we would expect all children of legal school age to be in a school.

Summer Born Guidance 15.3 Moving children to their normal age group

Once a child has been admitted to a school it is for the headteacher to decide how best to educate them. In some cases, it may be appropriate for a child who has been admitted out of their normal age group to be moved to their normal age group, but in others it will not. Any decision to move a child to a different age group should be based on sound educational reasons and made by the headteacher in consultation with the parents. In some primary schools, of course, children are educated in mixed age classes.

**Q**

***What do I advise parents of a year 6 child, regarding their transfer to secondary school in September?***

**A**

Please ensure that you advise the parent to contact Coordinated Admissions as soon as possible – [school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**Q**

***I have received an application for a child who is NCY -1 can I process this?***

**A**

Until July, when Coordinated Admissions transfer any outstanding applications back to the In Year Admissions team, please refer parents to [school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**Q**

***I am happy to offer a place at my school but am unsure of arrangements around English language provision.***

*Are you able to clarify what resources are available – or provide guidance/signposting for us. It would also be useful to know what the process is around English provision in schools for Ukrainian Refugees for any future queries we may have.*

**A**

All schools will have a strategy to manage children who attend their school, where English is not their first language. Some schools may utilise shared resources with other schools, while other schools have their own resources to support pupils.

All children and young people arriving under these schemes have the right to access education and childcare whilst in the UK. The best place for all school-age children to be educated is in schools, and attending school is vital to help newly arrived children integrate as quickly as possible into the communities in which they are living.

The government announced on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, that they have asked Oak National Academy to roll out an auto-translate function across all 10,000 of its online lessons, meaning Ukrainian children arriving in the UK can access education as they transition into life here in the UK. [Education Secretary addresses Association of School and College Leaders conference - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

More details about the funding arrangements for Schools to access under the pupils offered school places under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme will be published as soon as we receive new information.

**Q**

***Is there any additional help with transport and Free School Meals?***

**A**

Support for Home to School Transport and Free School Meals can be found here:

- Children who are entitled under statutory policy should apply here [School Bus Pass applications - Gloucestershire County Council](#)
- Children will be entitled to Free School Meals should apply here [Apply for free school meals - Gloucestershire County Council](#)
- School uniform support may be available, details to follow

**Q**

***Where can we find more advice and guidance for School Admissions for Ukrainian Families?***

**A**

Gloucestershire Links

[Ukrainian support - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

[How can I help my guest find a place in a local school? - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

GOV.UK Links

[Welcome: a guide for Ukrainians arriving in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Homes for Ukraine scheme: frequently asked questions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Q**

***Where can we find support for refugees seeking sanctuary in the UK?***

**A**

Barnardo's free helpline to support Ukrainian families

The conflict in Ukraine have caused families to forcibly leave their homes, in search of safety, with many arriving in the UK.

In response to this, following discussion with the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, Barnardo's has set up the Ukrainian Support Helpline to provide a holistic support service. The helpline is available to anyone fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

Barnardo's free helpline (0800 148 8586) is staffed by English, Ukrainian and Russian speakers, to offer support to children and families arriving in the UK from Ukraine.

The helpline is open Monday – Friday (10:00am – 8:00pm) and Saturday (10:00am – 3:00pm). Callers will be able to get help and advice on a range of topics.

A dedicated email address [ukrainiansupport@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:ukrainiansupport@barnardos.org.uk) and webpage have also been set up for those assisting with the Ukraine response.

More information:

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/helping-families/ukrainian-helpline>