

Supporting Asylum Seeking Children in School

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EU Migration 2017

- Including dependants, the total number of asylum applications to the EU in 2017 was an estimated 668,600, a decrease of 46% compared to the previous year (1,246,100).

Top EU countries receiving asylum applications, 2017

Country of application	Total applications
Germany	199,200
Italy	128,800
France	98,800
Greece	48,000
United Kingdom (Home Office data)	33,500
Spain	30,700

Asylum Applications by nationality

In 2017

Iranians	2,569
Pakistanis	2,483
Iraqis	2,366

Of the 5 nationalities with the highest number of applications, 4 saw falls compared with the previous year, and 1 (Sudan) saw an increase.

- In 2017, a total of 6,212 people were resettled in the UK under various resettlement schemes, consisting of:
- 4,832 under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme
- 539 under the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS)
- 813 under the Gateway Protection Programme
- 28 under the Mandate Scheme

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children

- Of the 14,767 people granted asylum, protection or resettlement, 5,866 were children (under 18 years old).

Support provided to asylum seekers

- Section 95 support is provided to destitute asylum seekers until their claim is finally determined. Section 95 support can be provided as either accommodation or subsistence, or both. Income- £36.95 per week
- An individual may be eligible for Section 4 support if their asylum application has been determined as refused and appeals rights are exhausted, but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the UK.
- The support consists of accommodation and £35.39 a week via a payment card. In contrast to s95 support, there are no cash payments

Asylum seekers with children

- If an asylum seeker's asylum claim is refused and there are dependent children in the household at the time their claim is fully determined, they will continue to receive section 95 support. This support can be ended however if the family is certified by the Home Secretary as having failed to leave the country voluntarily
- Unaccompanied children under the age of 18 do not receive asylum support and will be taken into the care by the local authority. Once they are 18, they will have to claim asylum in their own right.

ASAP- Asylum Support Appeals Project

- <http://www.asaproject.org/>
- **Factsheets** Easy-to-use resources for anyone with questions about asylum support
- [Factsheet 1 - Section 95 Support](#)
- [Factsheet 2 - Section 4 Support](#)
- [Factsheet 3 - Appealing to the Asylum Support Tribunal](#)
- [Factsheet 4 - Filling in the Appeal Notice](#)
- [Factsheet 5 - Proving Destitution](#)

There are 17 Factsheets

Asylum seeking or Refugee children irrespective of their immigration status are first and foremost children. They have the same needs as other children and are entitled to assessment as a child in need of care and protection under.

The Children Act, 1989.



School is not a public fund!

Access to school for any child should not be denied on the grounds of their immigration status. (except if family is on a tourist visa or Tier 4 Student Visa)

* See Guidance on school applications from Overseas.

What support is available for asylum seeker families and children in Salford other than section 95?

- Asylum children are entitled to FSM and therefore are pupil premium children-schools use their pupil premium money as an extra resource (used across the school)
- EMTAS support- EAL-English as an Additional Language-Referral into service for educational support must come via school.

https://contactus.salford.gov.uk/?formtype=EMTAS_REF

- EMTAS has a small pot of funding for school uniform. Direct referrals accepted from family, support worker etc

<https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/info-for-parents-students-and-teachers/ethnic-minorities-and-travellers/school-uniform-grant/>

Asylum and refugee children are deemed a vulnerable group by OFSTED

- Amongst the most traumatised and vulnerable children.
- May have witnessed the death of family members.
- May be entirely alone.
- Most will have had long and tortuous journeys , which may include having suffered emotional, sexual and or physical abuse.
- Such experiences mean that they will need time, space and help to rebuild their lives.

Reasons why children and families seek asylum or refuge

- Persecution
- Civil war
- Prohibited from participating, or forced to participate in religious activities.
- Sexual identity
- Forced to join political / terrorist organisations
- Forced recruitment into the military
- Forced or underage Marriage
- Forced labour or prostitution
- Trafficking
- FGM
- Death of parents or parents unable to care for them (children)

Feelings of LOSS



Feeling the
terrible loss of
having to
abandon
everything and
everyone
familiar to them



Isolation and culture shock

- Many asylum families face isolation in the community
- Lack of English makes communication difficult
- They may speak a minority language/illiterate
- Weather and environment totally different
- Customs and religion of neighbours/community unfamiliar
- Neighbours may be unfriendly and hostile

Meeting the needs of asylum seeking and refugee children.

- Care
- Advocacy & Support
- Immigration advice
- Health care
- Education
- Mental health support
- Cultural/social/religious needs

An holistic approach is needed!

Trauma and Resilience

- Knowing what trauma is and how it may manifest itself in children and young people
- Knowing who to turn to for support
- Helping the children and young people build resilience

Things to be aware of

- Labelling children as having “behavioural issues” without understanding the reasons for aggression and frustration
- Asylum parents may be under extreme stress and be emotionally absent. It is often the older children who have to step in, especially when they have better English than their parents.



Effective support strategies in schools

- Key attachment figure in school/locality
- Safe Places to go when distressed
- Ways of communicating effectively across different languages
- Comfort Box
- Counselling support-internal or external 42nd Street, CAMHS
- Art Therapy sessions
- Excellent EAL best practice

Emotional Health Directory of Services for Children and Young People

- <https://www.partnersinsalford.org/media/1242/ehwb-directory-july-2018.pdf>

How some asylum children may present

- Highly motivated
- Mature beyond their years
- Resourceful
- Ambitious
- Driven
- Articulate-good at English
- Strong
- Relieved they are not living in a war zone

The importance of play for asylum/refugee children

- Play will help a child settle and support their psychological needs
- It can help them make sense of the stresses and changes in their lives.
- It also offers children the chance to gain confidence through interacting with peers and exploring their environment.
- Asylum seeking children living in hostel accommodation, sometimes with stressed or emotionally absent parents, are likely to be missing most or all of what they need for play.

Back to where we started!

Asylum children are children first!



Supporting International Newly Arrived Children and their Families

Training for school staff

- This one day workshop will focus on increasing participants' understanding and awareness of equality and diversity when working with children and families who have settled in the UK. It will aim to:
 - Explore differences in family functioning, child rearing and safeguarding across cultures
 - Review local and national policy and legislation and the impact of discrimination
 - Identify good practice and specific actions that participants can implement in their own schools
- **8th November or 7th February**

Training for Health & Social Care Staff

Attachment & Safeguarding across Cultures

- This one day workshop will examine the assessment of child development, attachment and parenting practices using a combination of theory and reflexive exercises to develop skills.
- Aims of the day are to:
- Critically explore cultural assumptions and values underpinning parenting and child development in western and non-western societies
- Introduce delegates to the assessment of attachment and care giving practices across cultures
- Consider good practice in the assessment of risk and safeguarding issues in work with Black and minority ethnic families

22nd November or 21st February

Contact Details

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