



Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State

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4th May 2022

Dear all,

I am enormously grateful for all of your efforts to prepare and ensure that families fleeing from the war in Ukraine are met with a warm welcome as they arrive in the UK. Your continued commitment to support children arriving from Ukraine as they adjust to their new life and the continued hard work you have demonstrated in supporting children to access education as soon as possible following their arrival, is a credit to you all. This letter outlines ways in which we can work collectively to further support these children and young people arriving.

The UK Government stands with Ukraine and my department continues to work across government to ensure that all Ukrainian refugees in the UK are offered the same access to high quality education and childcare as UK citizens. Attending education is vital in helping children integrate into the communities in which they are living.

Pupils arriving from Ukraine will be offered a broad and balanced curriculum, which promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. To support schools' efforts, the Oak National Academy have rolled out an auto-translate function across all 10,000 of its online lessons, meaning that Ukrainian children can access education in their native language. Schools are also responsible for ensuring that all their pupils – including refugees and migrants who have a first language other than English – develop the English language skills they need in order to access the curriculum and achieve their potential.

Whilst schools should offer the same high-quality education to incoming Ukrainian pupils as they do their existing pupils, including delivering their usual curriculum, we recognise that Ukrainian arrivals may also welcome the opportunity to access Ukrainian learning materials during this uncertain period.

To support Ukrainian refugees and those children displaced by the conflict, the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) has published the [Ukrainian curriculum](#). Whilst schools should continue to prioritise delivering their usual curriculum, they may also wish to share these [Ukrainian educational materials](#) with incoming Ukrainian pupils and families. Whilst these resources could be used to complement pupils' education, for example, for use at home or in supplementary schools, they should not be used to substitute for schools' usual curriculum.

Where Ukrainian children and young people may be attending supplementary schools in the evenings or at weekends, schools may wish to signpost parents and carers to the [guidance on keeping children safe in out-of-school settings](#). As supplementary schools are not regulated, this guidance provides helpful information to parents on how to check if a setting is safe.

We also hope that schools and local authorities provide further support for children arriving by ensuring eligible pupils have access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme which provides healthy meals, enriching activities, and free childcare places to children from low-income families, benefiting their health, wellbeing and learning during the summer holidays. Additionally, schools are reminded that they can of course lend the laptops and tablets that have been distributed as part of a £520 million government investment to support access to remote education and online social care during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to those Ukrainian pupils who need them.

Local authorities also have an important role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and I am grateful to them for their work supporting those arriving from Ukraine.

My department continues to work closely with colleagues across government on guidance for local authorities, sponsors and families arriving from Ukraine. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has published [guidance for local authorities on the Homes for Ukraine scheme](#), as well as a [frequently asked questions](#) resource. DLUHC has also published a translated [welcome pack](#) for Ukrainians arriving in the UK and sponsor guidance Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Additionally, my department has published guidance on [school access rights for pupils from overseas](#) and an education hub article on [how to apply for school places and childcare](#) for Ukrainian parents and families, which has also been translated into Ukrainian.

I encourage you to continue to engage with us and let us know of any challenges you are facing, and once again, thank you for your incredible support in this important work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a large loop at the end of the name.

Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education