

School Admissions for Pupils from Overseas including Ukraine: Further information following the webinar on 19 May 2022

Please can you clarify who has access to FSM through the immigration act? Is it all asylum seekers?

- Asylum seekers who receive support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#) are entitled to FSM.
- Those who are receiving Section 95 support and Section 4 support.
- Also refused asylum seekers may also be eligible for FSM if have No Recourse to Public Funds ([Government has extended FSM to include children who are from some families with NRPF if on eligible low income](#))

What is the mechanism for per pupil funding for pupils arriving from Ukraine?

As with funding for pupils arriving from Afghanistan, we understand that DfE funding for pupils arriving from Ukraine (under visa scheme) will be made to the LA this term for distribution to schools. When we have more details on the mechanism for funding we will share this with you. Details of funding rates are on slide 13. The LA will need to check records with schools so please keep clear pupil records to ensure that you receive all eligible funding under this route.

Are the students arriving from Hong Kong and Ukraine through the visa schemes classed as refugees and can the school claim a Fair Access credit for these? Who does the school inform if they want to register a credit for these students?

The children coming through the BNO Hong Kong visa scheme, the Ukrainian Family visa and the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship schemes can be classed as refugees because they are newly arrived, suffer the same circumstances, vulnerabilities and have similar needs to children who have been given refugee status by the Home Office

Refugees and asylum seekers can be included within the scope of the Fair Access Protocol. If a school admits these children they can claim a Fair Access credit and they would need to notify us when they upload details of the application to the Schools' Portal. Fair Access admissions are reported by ticking the Fair Access box when the application details are uploaded to the Schools' Portal.

The Fair Access Team can provide further advice in relation to this: fairaccess@birmingham.gov.uk.

With those who are applying before they move to the UK, will we still need proof of address as to where they will be moving to?

You do not need to request proof of address for applicants applying from outside of the UK in order to process their application and offer a place. Some of these applicants may not have a confirmed address in Birmingham when they submit their application. If the school is oversubscribed the child will likely be some way down the waiting list because their address is outside the UK.

We have children on our waiting list who are from families from Hong Kong. When they are approaching me should I be advising them to contact BCC to help them find a place?

Schools are expected to notify all applicants for in-year admission of the outcome of their application in writing within 10 school days and they must notify them within a maximum of 15 school days. Schools must also upload details of all in-year applications and their outcomes to the Schools' Portal without delay. The application details that are uploaded to the Schools' Portal enable us to identify children who are without a school place and the LA will place these children. Schools can advise families whose application is unsuccessful to contact the School Admissions Team because we can provide them with details of schools which do have places and advise them on the appeals process as appropriate.

The email address for in-year admissions enquiries is InYearAdmissions@birmingham.gov.uk

When we will have a new Fair Access Protocol?

The new Fair Access Protocol was circulated to schools on 6 June for them to confirm their agreement after which it will be adopted and the intended implementation date is 1 September 2022.

Is it 4 weeks or 8 weeks for a Fair Access case?

Children who meet the prescribed criteria are eligible for placement under the Fair Access Protocol where they are having difficulty in securing a place in-year, and it can be demonstrated that reasonable measures have been taken to secure a place through the usual in-year admission procedures. The criteria includes:

- children who have been out of education for four or more weeks where it can be demonstrated that there are no places available at any school within a reasonable distance of their home;
- children of, or who are, Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers

The LA will also consider placing children in one of the closest schools with places available which can be a speedier process than applying the Fair Access arrangements. More information is available in the current protocol published here: [Fair Access Protocol final version | Birmingham City Council](#)

I have received a request to admit a pupil into a different year group than their birth year. Am I obligated to?

No. Any admission in-year has to be to the appropriate age group based on the age of the child. It is subsequently the decision of the school if they then decide that the child's educational interest is best met by being taught outside of their chronological age group. We would generally advise against educating children outside of their chronological age group because of related risks to their future education.

We have been advised that fire drills in schools have terrified some recently arrived Ukrainian children as they sound like Air Raid sirens. Please can this be flagged up to support kids in advance?

From a health and safety perspective, fire drills are essential. It is a requirement that at least one drill is carried out within an academic year, but we do recommend at least three (one every term) as this picks up any potential new starters. Whilst it is good practise to undertake at least one unannounced drill to ensure that this could be reflective of a real incidence, there is no legal requirement. Therefore, schools can ensure that new starters or children that may be affected by the drill are informed in advance to reduce or alleviate the trauma.

If this needs to be discussed further please contact Education Infrastructure team eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk.

What trauma and language support services are available for my school?

There is a wealth of expertise across the city and some of these have been listed on slide 14.

Birmingham's Educational Psychology Service offers *Trauma Informed Attachment Aware Schools* training and support to schools, TIAAS. Network meetings can be arranged for schools interested in the TIAAS training on offer. If your school is interested in this, please contact Vivian.Ng@birmingham.gov.uk for more information.

Birmingham Educational Psychology Service has also produced a '*First steps for supporting refugees in your school*' webinar which is now published on the website. This is a 30-minute-long webinar designed to be watched as part of staff meetings or for individual CPD. It focusses on understanding experiences of refugees, both traumatic experiences as well as protective factors, as well as what the research says about meeting the needs of refugee children and young people and what schools can do to support them.

The link is here: <https://birminghameducationsupportservices.co.uk/refugeesupport>

There is also a Microsoft Teams Form so schools can give feedback to support future information and training needs.

There are further helpful documents saved on the website including a list of websites and organisations that can help.