



ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: Mr D Linehan

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St. Anne's Mission Statement: "Each one of us is unique, each one of us is special, because we are created by God's love. May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together."

Wednesday 13th November 2024

Dear Bridget Phillipson MP,

Saint Anne's is an accredited school of Schools of Sanctuary organisation, recognised for our commitment to welcoming refugees and people seeking asylum. We are just some of the members of a growing network of more than 1,000 primary and secondary schools, nurseries and sixth forms all committed to creating a culture of welcome, understanding and belonging for everyone, particularly those forced to flee their country.



We have seen first-hand how damaging the Hostile Environment has been: children unable to be reunited with their parents; re-traumatised by being housed in wholly unsuitable hotels; suddenly pulled from school and relocated with no notice; family members forced into hiding after being threatened with deportation. These are cruel policies that see people punished simply for seeking sanctuary.

We know that schools can play a hugely important role in healing the divisions now widespread in our communities, whilst ensuring children in the asylum system get the best possible chance to thrive. **We know because we do this work every day.**

As the Secretary of State for Education, we ask that you join us to ensure that all schools in England are places of welcome for refugee children, that they raise awareness of the experiences of people seeking safety, and play a key role in building a wider culture of empathy and kindness.

We ask you to fight for a UK that welcomes and protects people fleeing torture, war and persecution; a UK that is proud of its diversity and recognises and celebrates how we are enriched by new arrivals.

Below, we outline four things you can do to begin this work:

- 1. Schedule an event between representatives from the undersigned schools** where we can share policy expertise and suggestions
- 2. Meet with and learn from children in these schools** who have who have been directly affected by the Hostile Environment and other damaging migration policies
- 3. Allocate appropriate funding to ensure schools can provide targeted support to newly arrived children**, including delivering on the manifesto commitment of prioritising teacher training so that new practitioners are better equipped to welcome and support new arrivals.
- 4. Integrate learning about the UK's relationship with migration into the curriculum** to build a fuller understanding of the contributions of people seeking sanctuary, ensuring that the curriculum reflects the diversities of our society.

We welcome your appointment and look forward to working together towards a school system that is compassionate, outward looking and forward thinking.

Signed,
Miss Roughneen
School of Sanctuary Lead