



WELCOME TO SCHOOL PACK – FOR PARENTS



**Children's needs
are changing.
So are we.**



Welcoming you and your children to school in the UK

People in the UK and in the London borough of Wandsworth want to give you and your children a warm and heartfelt welcome, supporting you to feel safe and settled as quickly as possible. If you have any concerns or questions, please get in touch with us and we will do everything we can to help:

Email: homesforukraine@wandsworth.gov.uk

Call: +44 (0)208 871 7687.

Applying for a school place for your child(ren)

Please see the section in the Ukraine families' welcome pack produced by Children's Services about school admissions and applying for a school.

If you need further help, please contact Refugee Education UK or the Refugee Council who offer independent education advocacy and other support:

<https://www.reuk.org/what-we-do>

<https://www.reuk.org/ukraine>

<https://refugeecouncil.org.uk/>

Young people post 16

Please contact the following providers who can offer advice and guidance, and signposting to relevant education courses, apprenticeships and employment for young people post 16 and adults:

Lifelong Learning – providing information, advice, careers guidance and a range of learning programmes

52 East Hill, London SW18 2HJ Tel: 020 8871 8055

www.wandsworthlifelonglearning.org.uk

Ask to speak to Jackie Brown or Dustine Davis. Alternatively e-mail:

Jackie.Brown@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Dustine.Davis@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Open 9am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday – you can just drop in or call/email to book an appointment. Arrangements can be made to speak to a Russian-speaking member of staff and a Ukrainian-speaking member of staff.

Lifelong Learning can support young people in finding appropriate education as well as newly-arrived adults who want employment.

South Thames College

Wandsworth High St, London SW18 2PP Tel: 020 8918 7777

<https://stcg.ac.uk/south-thames-college>

Wandsworth Participation Service

Wandsworth Council's Post 16 Participation Team support young people aged 16-18 to explore their education, employment or training (EET) options to access the most appropriate one for them. The Team offers young people:

- help to recognise and understand their skills and interests;
- information, advice & guidance about short and long-term post 16 pathways; and
- support with CV writing, applications and developing employability skills.

Contact: post16@wandsworth.gov.uk to request support.

Refugees Resettlement Scheme (RRS)

The main aim of the scheme is to resettle people and ensure seamless transition into the local society, to ensure that the refugees live an ordinary life like any other person and are self sufficient.

There is a coffee morning every Wednesday, offering support on:

- interpreting and translation services
- housing
- training and employment
- education
- children 0-5 years
- health

Anyone can attend, come together and meet other families.

Time : 11am – 1.30pm

Location : Yvonne Carr Centre, 2 Thessaly Road, Nine Elms, SW8 4HT

Contact name and number : Maria 07500 918 494 / 020 8871 8585

Wandsworth WorkMatch

Wandsworth residents aged 16+ with the right to work in the UK.

The service is engaged with a wide range of businesses in the area across different sectors that are seeking to fill vacancies.

On registration, the resident will be:

- Screened against the vacancies that we currently have available
- Provided with assistance with the process of applying for jobs, including CV preparation and interview skills
- Referred to further training or additional support via our partner network as appropriate

To access the service, register on the website www.wandsworthworkmatch.org or call our main office on 020 8871 5191

Helping your child prepare for school

You and your child will be invited in for an initial discussion and introduction to the school. You can expect to find out everything essential you need to know before your child starts at the school. You can also check all the information on the school website prior to your visit.

You will find out about the school's values, behaviour and learning expectations, support available for special educational needs and pastoral care, uniform requirements, PE kit, after school clubs and anything else you need to know. Take any questions you have along to this meeting.

Please use the relevant welcome pack for primary-aged children and secondary-aged children to help your child prepare for starting their new school. This includes checklists about what equipment your child will need as well as information about on how they will be supported once they start school, including with learning English as quickly as possible. All schools will have a 'virtual learning environment' where homework, learning materials and assignments are posted for learners and schools will also use email and texting systems for communicating information, daily if necessary, with parents.

In the UK, new children are encouraged to talk to their teacher (primary) or tutor (secondary) and to their friends about how they are feeling and what they need to help them settle in and feel comfortable. As in the Ukraine, parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's school and education and to ask any questions about things they don't understand. The school will help with translating questions if it is difficult to ask in English. Schools will have a parent/teacher association (PTA) where parents are involved in helping the school raise funds, run events, support new parents. In addition the PTA usually provides second-hand uniform for all pupils, offering good quality, freshly laundered school clothing at greatly reduced prices. Most parents take advantage of this offer to save on the cost of brand new uniform. So it is a good idea to find out who the lead contact person is for the PTA at your child's school and the person organising the school uniform service.

Schools will usually have one or two parents' evenings per year where you can meet with teachers to find out about your child's attainment and progress. However, you are encouraged to contact the school at any time across the school year to discuss any questions, requests or concerns you may have.

About the UK education system

Children must attend school between the ages of 5 and 16 by law, many children start nursery and Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage) before this.

Many young people stay in school or college until they are 18. This is called the Participation Age and means they must be in some form of education, employment or training such as internships, voluntary work, apprenticeships or traineeships.

Ages and stages

Nursery and reception: 2-5 years

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- End of key stage assessment: Teacher assessment using EYFS Profile

Primary School: 5-11 years

- 5-7 years, 'Key stage 1' Years 1 and 2
- End of key stage assessment: Teacher assessment using school's assessment framework; tests may also be used
- 7-11 years, 'Key stage 2' Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
- End of key stage assessment: Both teacher assessment using school's assessment framework and national tests with a final score. This final score is important as it is used to work out what they should get 5 years later at GCSE. This is called their GCSE predicted score.

Secondary School 11-16 years

- 11-14 years, 'Key stage 3', Years 7, 8 and 9
- End of key stage assessment Teacher assessment using school's assessment framework. Every time you are given a new assessment, you can compare it with their predicted GCSE score. Even more important is the Progress Score because this shows you if your child is making progress according to potential. If your child is making less progress than they should be, they you need to ask what extra support they are being given.
- 14-16 years, 'Key stage 4', Years 10 and 11
- End of key stage assessment and qualifications: GCSE grades 1–9, non-GCSE subjects (eg construction, health and social care, travel and tourism). Eight of these scores are added together and then divided to provide a number a number that can be compared with their Key Stage 2 SATs predicted GCSE score to see if they have made enough progress during Key Stages 3 & 4.

POST 16: Key Stage 5

- 6th form (school), college, training or employment aged 16-19 years, Year groups 12, 13, 14
- End of key stage assessment and qualifications: A Level, AS Level, GCSE, BTEC, NVQ, Functional Skills, ASDAN and AQA Awards, Entry and Pre-Entry Level Awards, Apprenticeships, Traineeships

Resources for Ukrainian parents

1. About the english education system: primary school

English version: www.bell-foundation.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/01/Guide-for-parents-Primary-Schools-FV-English.pdf

Ukrainian version: www.bell-foundation.org.uk/app/uploads/2022/03/Guide-for-Parents-Primary-Schools-UA.pdf

2. About the English education: secondary:

www.bell-foundation.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/01/Guide-for-parents-Secondary-Schools-FV-English.pdf

www.bell-foundation.org.uk/app/uploads/2022/03/Guide-for-Parents-Secondary-Schools_UA.pdf

3. Supporting your child's learning:

English version: www.bell-foundation.org.uk/app/uploads/2020/09/Guidance-for-Parents-FV-English.pdf

Ukrainian version: www.bell-foundation.org.uk/app/uploads/2022/03/Guidance-for-Parents-Ukrainian_UA.pdf

SCHOOL – main similarities and differences

In the Ukraine	In the UK
Parents involved in their children's education	Parents involved in their children's education
Children start primary school aged 6 or 7 years, some children of this age will not yet have started learning to read and write	Children start primary school aged 4 or 5 years, when they start learning phonetics for reading and how to write
Talk-chalk method: children mainly listen to the teacher, work on their own, memorise facts and learn theory rather than doing practical experiments (e.g. in science)	Collaborative learning is important so pupils will at times work in groups or pairs well as listening to the teacher talking. There is less emphasis on memorising. Creativity and critical thinking/speaking is encouraged, with children asked to work out their views and explore a range of information and ideas Maths and science curriculum covers different content in different years compared to Ukraine and children are taught different methodologies in Maths. Ask your school for the subject syllabus
Schools have online virtual learning environments to support home study	Schools have online virtual learning environments to support home study
No school uniform	School uniform for primary and secondary and 'dress code' for 6 th formers

<p>In primary, children have the same teacher throughout. In middle/secondary, pupils have different teachers for different subjects</p>	<p>In primary, children will usually have a different teacher each year. In secondary the system is the same as in Ukraine, with different teachers for different subjects</p>
<p>Class size is around 30 pupils but only one adult (the teacher) and little assessment of special educational needs</p>	<p>Class size is similar, around 30 pupils but often a teaching assistant (TA) in the classroom alongside the teacher to help pupils learn. Sometimes a TA or specialist teacher will work with a small group of pupils on a particular subject like reading, maths or learning English grammar</p>
<p>Students must put their hand up if they had a question and only talk in class when asked a question</p>	<p>Teachers will ask pupils for their ideas and contributions – children are encouraged to express ideas and participate in group work. Children may be asked to contribute at any point in a lesson</p>
<p>In Ukrainian schools there is less ethnic, cultural, religious and language diversity – most pupils speak the same languages as each other at school and home.</p>	<p>There may be many different languages spoken by pupils in English schools and pupils may come from lots of different backgrounds, cultures and countries – schools and colleges promote respect and value diversity, students who speak more than one language are admired and pupils are encouraged to appreciate and learn from each other</p>
<p>There are 4 'semesters' in Ukrainian schools with a 3 month summer 'vacation'</p>	<p>In the UK, there are 3 'terms', each with a week 'half term', 2 weeks 'holiday' at Easter and Christmas and 6 weeks; holiday in the summer</p>
<p>Lessons are 45 minutes, there are 5 lessons a day with 5-10 minute breaks in between</p>	<p>Morning lessons until brektime, after break lessons until lunchtime and then a break in the afternoon. During breaks you can get fresh air and exercise in the playground</p>
<p>In Ukraine PE is about individual physical challenges and tests</p>	<p>In the UK there are more team sports and PE includes topics such as dance</p>
<p>In Ukraine, children are set 2-5 hours of homework per night</p>	<p>In the UK, children are not given less homework, usually around 1-2 hours maximum per night in secondary school; check expectations with the school</p>



Welcome to School pack for parents
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