

At this early stage, there are many unknowns about the UK Government “Ukraine at Home” scheme.

We recognise that some school-aged children and young people have already started to arrive from Ukraine and schools have been contacted about available places. This has raised some questions about the admissions process and the support available.

Here are some FAQ’s which may be helpful for schools in this position, until more clarity is provided on the scheme.

How should schools treat an application for a school place from a Ukrainian family?

Schools should apply their usual admissions procedures, while recognising that some of these children, as newcomer pupils, will require additional support. They may need support with their English language, and in helping to develop friendships. Other children may require more specific support if trauma is a significant barrier to learning - but it may be some time before this becomes apparent in school. Initially, what these children will benefit from most is the security and stability of a regular school day.

There are currently no ‘exceptional arrangements’ in place for admitting Ukrainian children to school, i.e. schools should not go above their permitted enrolment number unless a temporary variation has been applied for from the Department of Education.

Is additional funding available for Ukrainian pupils?

The UK Government has indicated that additional financial support will be made available to schools to meet the educational needs of Ukrainian pupils arriving on the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme. No information has yet been provided on the availability of funding for pupils arriving on the 'Ukrainian Family' scheme. The levels of funding have not yet been confirmed, but it is likely that the funding will be ring-fenced and applicable only to an early period of time in education to support learning and integration, e.g. the first 12 months in school.

Can schools receive information on Ukrainian culture and language?

There will be introductory information with some key cultural information about Ukraine, useful phrases and essential vocabulary, as well as key links to language sites provided soon. This will be available from early April 2022 *-we haven't had it yet (LH)*

Will Ukrainian pupils be eligible for Free School Meals and the uniform allowance?

The usual eligibility criteria applies for Ukrainian pupils.. If parent/carers are not in receipt of the requisite evidence for an application, a paper application should be submitted under **humanitarian grounds**. This will provide a 12 week window to allow any evidence (e.g. Universal Credit statement) to be obtained and submitted retrospectively to support the application, while the pupil continues to receive a school meal daily.

Will transport be provided for Ukrainian pupils?

The usual eligibility criteria for transport assistance applies for Ukrainian pupils. Parents and/or carers should be made aware that it is largely their responsibility to ensure their children get to school safely.