

UKRAINE WELCOME

School, Education and Learning

School places

Children can attend school from the September after their fourth birthday. All school placements are organised by West Sussex County Council and the School Admissions Service are working to coordinate places and liaise with Head Teachers to ensure that a smooth transition can be achieved for all Ukrainian children.

Applications for school places can be made once you have notified the the Community Hub that your guests have arrived, or you can complete the In Year Application Form on behalf of your family: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/apply/moving-school/moving-school/>

Alternatively, the Refugee Resettlement Team can complete the school place application on behalf of the family and liaise directly with School Admissions colleagues and the school to organise initial visits etc. This may be done as part of the initial home visit to meet your family after their arrival. They will regularly check on the arrival of school age children and can complete applications for children who have not yet applied.

If you have already applied for a school place for your family, your application will be progressed once you notify the Community Hub of their arrival.

School uniform

We will provide support for school equipment/uniform/PE Kit/ once school places are allocated and will top up your family's existing pre-paid card with £125 for primary school children and £175 for secondary school children.

Each school will have their own school uniform guidelines, which will be available on their website. Most supermarkets will sell reasonably priced school uniform, including shoes and PE Kits. You may need to buy some items from the school supplier (for example for branded jumpers, cardigans, or ties).

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Free School Meals

Many children arriving from Ukraine will be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) based on their financial circumstances but may not immediately have access to a National Insurance Number which is required to complete the application process.

When your family visit their new school, please do discuss whether a school meal is required so that the school can make suitable arrangements for your guests. If your guests need support please contact the Community Hub. FSM are available to all children in Year R to Year 2 as standard.

Younger Children

All children can attend nursery from the term after their third birthday for 15 hours a week which is funded by the government, but some Ukrainian families may also be eligible for this from the age of 2. Please liaise with the Refugee Resettlement Team to find out about places at nursery for younger children.

Resources to help with reading and learning

West Sussex Library Service

Everyone who lives in West Sussex can join the library for free. There are 36 libraries across the County covering most towns and larger villages as well as an extensive digital offer available via which you can download books, magazines and newspapers in a range of languages.

For children and young people:

Reading – Books available for all ages from baby to teen, including eBooks, eAudio and eComics via the **Libby App** which is free to use with your library card. This includes some books for children in Ukrainian.

Homework help – Access to lots of online resources, including Encyclopaedia Britannica Junior and Student editions that which can also be translated into Ukrainian.

Activities – All libraries hold Rhyme Time or Toddler Time sessions every week for under 5's and larger libraries also hold Storytime sessions for children of all ages. These are all free to attend and there is no need to book.

Find more information on the library website: www.arena.westsussex.gov.uk/our-libraries

Community Hub and Refugee Resettlement Team contact information:

For urgent questions and queries please call on 0330 2227980. You can also email at ukrainesupport@westsussex.gov.uk (open 7 days a week including weekends and bank holidays from 9am – 5pm)