



29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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**To: Headteacher/admission officers – all Southwark schools**

Dear colleagues

**Families arriving from Ukraine – school admissions**

As you will be aware, arrangements are now in place for refugees from Ukraine to come to the UK - the overall numbers arriving in Southwark so far have been low but are expected to increase over coming weeks.

Southwark Council is actively planning on how best to provide support for individuals and families arriving to the borough, information on how to get help, and details of support available can be viewed here:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/ukraine-crisis>

Most refugees from Ukraine will be arriving through two main routes:

- The UK Family Scheme, where visas are issued to enable people to join relatives already in the UK (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>)
- The Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme, where people have been issued visas to live in housing offered by sponsors (<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>)

There may also be some Ukrainians, already in the country under different kinds of visas but now cannot return home and so may have extended visas.

Whatever their visa status, any Ukrainian child living here is entitled to a school place on the same basis as any other resident child. The usual in year admissions process is to be followed.

**Please note, the Department for Education has confirmed that additional funding for school and nursery places will be available via Local Authorities this will only apply to children arriving through the Home for Ukraine sponsorship scheme.**

If your school has already admitted any child(ren) from Ukraine, regardless of their visa status, please can you confirm details with School Admissions at [schools.admissions@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:schools.admissions@southwark.gov.uk) – we would need to know name, date of birth, address and visa status (i.e. family scheme, sponsorship scheme or extended visa).

This is fast developing situation and we will provide updates as and when changes occur. Thank you as always for your cooperation and particularly for your anticipated support to families through these current, challenging circumstances.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "G. Garcia".

Glenn Garcia

Assistant Director Education, Access and Statutory Services.