

Education Places for Ukrainian Refugee Families – message for sponsors from Somerset County Council:

We are currently trying to collate as much information as possible about families arriving in Somerset so that we assist sponsors and their Ukrainian family to find early years, school and post 16 places.

For families requiring early years places please use the childcare finder website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/finding-childcare/>

For Post 16 places please use the following website to find out about Somerset's post 16 offer: <https://www.somerset-ebp.co.uk/learners/somersetworks.htm> or email: hello@skillupsomerset.org.uk.

For school places our priority is to have all children requiring a school place to be recorded on our database and from there we can carry out a school search to establish schools with places in the relevant location and year group. This will enable the Council's admissions team to notify sponsors of places currently available in their location. Please bear with us as we undertake this work as it may take some time to work through every individual family requirement.

We would encourage sponsors to assist their guest family to visit schools before making an application.

Once your family is ready to make an application the in year admissions process outlined on the LA website must be followed: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/in-year-school-admissions/>.

Applications must be signed by family members with parental responsibility and admissions authorities will not be able to accept applications signed by the sponsor. Please contact the school admissions team if you have any questions about the application process schooladmissions@somerset.gov.uk.

For general note, the Statutory walking distances are 2 miles up until the age of 8 and 3 miles for aged 8 and over. Where it is not possible to offer a place within the statutory walking distance transport will be provided to the nearest school with an available place. Parents will also have the right of appeal if refused a school place at their preferred school.

The link to another useful website that may be helpful in supporting families with English as an additional language is <https://www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/Page/2838>.