



Celebrate diversity this
REFUGEE WEEK



**16-22
JUNE**

Refugee Week The Theme of Courage

Exploring what it means to leave everything behind — and why understanding refugee experiences matters to all of us.



A prayer for
Refugees

Let us pray,

We lift before you all who have been forced to flee their homes because of war, persecution, or disaster. Strengthen those who journey in fear, carrying memories of loss and hopes for safety.

Grant them courage for each step and surround them with people who welcome rather than turn away. May communities, churches, and nations reflect your justice and compassion, defending the dignity of every person made in your image.

Bless those who work for peace, who offer shelter, who advocate for fair asylum systems, and who stand with the stranger. Heal the wounds of those who have suffered, and comfort those who grieve what they have left behind.

God of hope,
May we be courageous in love,
courageous in speaking truth,
courageous in welcoming the displaced,
courageous in building communities where all can flourish.
As we remember World Refugee Week, open our eyes, hearts, and hands to be signs of your refuge in the world.

Amen.



Key Vocabulary



Refugee

Someone forced to flee their country due to war or persecution.



Asylum Seeker

Someone seeking international protection whose claim for refugee status hasn't been decided yet.



Resilience

The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.



Solidarity

Unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest.

Remember: Behind every statistic is a real person — with a family, a history, and a dream for their future.



What is a Refugee?

● Refugee

A person forced to flee their country due to persecution, war, or violence — and officially recognised under international law.

● Asylum Seeker

Someone who has applied for protection but is still waiting for a decision. Not yet legally recognised as a refugee.

📖 1951 Convention

The global agreement that defines refugee rights — including the right not to be sent not to be sent back to danger.

The Suitcase Challenge



Your Mission

You have 60 seconds. You must
must leave your home and your
your country — possibly
forever.

What do you pack?

Step 1 — Choose 5 items

Think about your 5 items
items and why - no
discussion yet.

Step 2 — Share & Reflect

Compare with a partner.
Why did you choose those
those things?

Step 3 — Big Question

How does this feel compared
compared to an ordinary
weekday morning?



What is a Refugee?

Beyond the Headlines

A refugee is someone who has been forced to leave their home country because they are at risk of serious human rights violations and persecution there. This might be due to their **race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.**

Under the **Equality Act 2010** and international law, everyone has the right to live in safety and be treated with dignity, regardless of where they were born.

Why Do People Leave Home?

Refugees don't leave because they want to. They leave because staying is no longer survivable. Understanding the real reasons helps us reasons helps us move beyond headlines.

Armed Conflict

War and violence make entire cities uninhabitable, leaving families no choice but to flee.

Persecution

People are targeted for their religion, ethnicity, political views, views, or identity.

Climate & Disaster

Increasingly, environmental collapse forces communities to to abandon their homelands entirely.



2026 Theme: It takes extraordinary **courage** to leave everything you know and rebuild your life from nothing in a foreign land.

The Meaning of Courage

More Than Just Bravery

When we think of courage, we often think of superheroes or soldiers. But courage comes in many forms:

- **Physical Courage:** Facing danger during a difficult journey.
- **Moral Courage:** Standing up for what is right, even when it's hard.
- **Resilient Courage:** The strength to start over in a new place where you don't know the language or customs.



A Journey of Resilience

Meet Amira

Imagine leaving your school, your bedroom, and your friends behind with only an hour's notice. Amira travelled across borders, spent months in temporary camps, and eventually arrived in the UK. Her courage wasn't just in the travel; it was in the **determination** to learn English, the **patience** to wait for news of her family, and the **strength** to smile on her first day at a new school.



Reflecting on Amira's Journey



What 'hidden' types of courage might a student like Amira need to show every day in a school like ours?

Reflecting on Amira's Journey



You might have said...

- Asking for help when they do not understand.
- Dealing with missing home while making new friends.
- Facing others with stereotypes about refugees.
- The effort to learn in a second or third language.

Challenging Stereotypes



Seeing the Individual

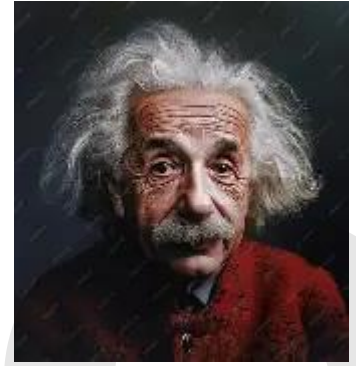
Sometimes, the media or social media use **stereotypes**—over-simplified ideas about a group of people. These can be damaging because they ignore that every refugee is a unique person with their own skills and story. Refugees are doctors, artists, students, and neighbours. When we use labels instead of names, we lose the chance to show **respect and tolerance**.

Contributions to Society



Ordinary Heroes

Refugees bring incredible talents to our country
Doctors, teachers, engineers, artists and
professional athletes among us today —
rebuilding communities and enriching British
life.



Famous refugees include:

Albert Einstein, Rita Ora, and Mo
Farah.

They have shaped our culture and
science.





Interactive Map: The Global Journey



The Journey Is Never Simple

Routes are dangerous, expensive, and uncertain. Many cross deserts, seas, and borders — sometimes multiple times — before finding safety.

Physical dangers

Treacherous terrain, overcrowded boats, and extreme weather conditions.

Emotional toll

Separation from loved ones, grief, and deep uncertainty about the future.

🎥 Video Task

[World Refugee Day 2023: Refugees Are Changemakers - YouTube](#)



The UK and Refugee Rights



The Art of Empathy

Equality for All

In the UK, the **Equality Act 2010** protects people from discrimination. Even if someone is new to the country, they deserve:



"They are not dangerous. They are not our enemy. They are people who have lost everything. They are us."

— Brian Bilston, Refugees

Bilston's poem reads differently forwards and backwards — mirroring how perspective changes everything. Read it both ways as a class.



Building a Culture of Welcome

1

Language Matters

Avoid labels or slang that make others feel unwelcome.

2

Reach Out

A simple 'hello' or lunch invite makes a world of difference.

3

Be Curious

Ask about interests instead of why they left.

4

Stand Up

Stand Up: Calmly challenge unfair remarks about refugees.



Case Study: Little Amal's Walk

A 12-foot puppet representing a Syrian refugee child named Amal walked 8,000 km across Europe — from Turkey to the UK — meeting millions of people along the way.

Why a puppet?

Her giant scale demands you cannot look away. She represents the millions of children whose stories go unheard.

Discussion Question

What does it mean that a puppet achieved what political speeches have not? What does *art* do that *data* cannot?



Student Leadership: Your Turn to Act

Real change starts with people who decide to do something. That can be you — starting right here in this school.



Brainstorm

How can our school become a genuine place of welcome for all?



Campaign

Plan an awareness campaign or fundraiser for charities like Kaleidoscope.



Advocate

Use your voice. Write to your MP, create a display, or lead a school assembly.



Call to Action: Be a Voice for Change

Refugee Week isn't just a date in June.

It's a commitment to kindness — one we can renew every single day.

Write a Letter

Write to your local MP or a refugee support charity about why this issue matters to you.

Start a Fundraiser

Organise a bake sale, sponsored event, or collection for a refugee charity in your community.



Lead an Assembly

Share what you've learned with the rest of your school. Your voice can change minds.

✔ Our Pledge: We will make our school a safer, more welcoming place — for everyone who walks through its doors. **Every act of doors. Every act of courage starts with one person deciding to care.**

Summary



What We've Learnt

- **Courage** is a journey of resilience and starting over.
- **Refugees** are individuals with legal rights and unique stories.
- **Stereotypes** damage our community and must be challenged.
- **Welcome** is an action we can all take every single day.