

At Balshaw's C.E High School we are proud to be an inclusive community that values diversity, providing outstanding education for all children irrespective of their race, religion, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation knowing that they will succeed in our school as each child is unique in God's eyes. Every child is treated as an individual and given the nurture, care and many forms of support they need pastorally, socially, emotionally and academically to thrive and fulfil their own potential.

It is for this reason we began our journey to become a 'Schools of Sanctuary' as we believe their values encompass our own Gospel Values of Love, Patience, Respect, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Trust in our caring school environment and we want to ensure all of our school community welcome everyone and provide a 'sanctuary' for many.

What is School of Sanctuary?

Schools of Sanctuary is an initiative which aims to:

- Promote positive attitudes within schools and their communities around people seeking sanctuary
- Support schools to take positive steps and to be proud of being places of safety and inclusion for all
- Recognise and celebrate schools that are committed to welcoming and supporting people seeking sanctuary

Why are we becoming a School of Sanctuary?

Part of our work to become a "School of Sanctuary" is based on our vision to strengthen our links with the local community and increase student voice and active citizenship. We want to create a sense of safety and inclusion that is beneficial to all members of the school community. To support us in doing this, we feel that becoming a School of Sanctuary supports our vision and ethos.

We started our launch with a pledge to the Sanctuary Foundation which we have displayed in all classrooms in school

School of Sanctuary update - Refugee Week 2025

- We took part in the Podcast Asylum Speakers listening to the plight of individuals who have sought sanctuary from war, persecution and other factors across the world
- We took part in The Sanctuary Foundation's 'Great Big Live Assembly'
- We heard from the Red Cross about people's experiences of Migration



- We produced Tutor Identity boards to reflect the diversity of each of our Tutor groups in regard to their Languages spoken, Country of origin, what Family means to them, their home, hobbies and interests
- Finally on June 13th we submitted our bid to be recognised as a School of Sanctuary and continue to live out the values of the Sanctuary foundation by continuing to advocate for kindness and compassion for all our school community. We want to continue to build a better, fairer and kinder society for everyone as these also link to our Gospel Values

We are officially a School of Sanctuary having been awarded the status on July 3rd 2025. We received the good news from Izabela Zalewska-Ratajczak from Lancashire County Council's Education Improvement–Equality and Diversity Team. She wrote to school to say:

"Together with my colleagues for City of Sanctuary, we have studied the application from you and were very impressed with all the work you did at your school."

*We are in agreement that **Balshaw's CE High School** is to be awarded a School of Sanctuary status.*

On behalf of Jeff Morgan (City of Sanctuary), myself and the rest of our team, we would like to congratulate your school on achieving a well-deserved status of Lancashire School of Sanctuary.

What makes this award even more special for us is that we are the first and only Church of England High School in Lancashire to achieve the status. HOORAY!



 City of Sanctuary UK



 Lancashire
County Council

Balshaw's Church of England High School

SANCTUARY AWARD

Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

Proud to be a Place of Sanctuary

In recognition of its work and ongoing commitment to the City of Sanctuary
vision of being a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer
sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution

is hereby awarded the
Lancashire School of Sanctuary Award

Jeff Morgan

Signed on behalf of City of Sanctuary UK

3rd July 2025

Roxana Sardais

Izabela Zalewska-Ratajczak
Education Improvement–Equality and Diversity Team