



Dear Principal,

As you will be aware, the Government is committed to delivering a humanitarian response to welcome people fleeing the war in Ukraine and seeking protection in Ireland.

Every day, hundreds of people are arriving to Ireland from Ukraine, many of them children.

Already some schools have welcomed children and young people from Ukraine that have arrived seeking enrolment. Your swift response and welcome is greatly appreciated by the Minister.

The information below may be useful to school communities at this time. This is an evolving situation, and the Department will continue to communicate with schools and with the education partners in the coming weeks on this topic.

Provision of education to children arriving from Ukraine

Children arriving from Ukraine to Ireland at this time are beneficiaries under the Temporary Protection Directive. This directive assures their right to education in the public education system, along with other rights, for a temporary period, on the same basis as EU citizens.

Enrolling children in school

If a family approaches your school seeking a school place and you have the capacity to offer a place to the child or children, please do so.

Please register the child as quickly as possible on POD/P-POD, as this ensures accurate data of the numbers of children registering in our schools and will help to ensure resources are available to support their needs.

If there is demand for places in your school for children from Ukraine that your school cannot meet, please

- support the family by contacting another local school if possible, if you believe that school may have capacity

or

- provide them with the details of Tusla support service which will assist. You can contact them using this link: <https://www.tusla.ie/tess/get-in-touch/#EWO>

or

- contact the Department's helpline for Principals on 057 9324461. Usupport@education.gov.ie

The helpline will operate Monday - Friday.



Support for Children with additional needs

Children arriving from Ukraine may have experienced trauma and hardship. The National Educational Psychological Service has provided information on how schools can support children who have been affected.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e003e-supporting-children-and-young-people-in-a-time-of-war/>

In addition it is also possible that some of these children will have special educational needs – your local special educational needs organiser (SENO) can assist you in supporting these children. <https://ncse.ie/regional-services-contact-list>

English as an Additional Language (EAL) materials

It is probable that children who come from Ukraine will have limited English language skills.

Language plays a vital role in helping children/students to clarify and interpret experiences, explore ideas and emotions, and deepen their understanding of the world around them. Recognising the significance of language in shaping individual experiences, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) has published a range of materials to support learners with English as an additional language (EAL) across the early childhood, primary and post-primary sectors. These materials aim to support teachers and early childhood practitioners to nurture the language development of EAL learners.

A guide to some of these materials is attached, and they can be found on NCCA's websites: NCCA.ie, curriculumonline.ie and Aistear Síolta Practice Guide. It is planned that further material will be added to supplement what is already available.

CPD for Teachers

The Primary Language Curriculum (PLC) is designed as an inclusive curriculum for all children. PDST have been providing some discrete provision for EAL specific supports at primary, focusing on inclusive pedagogies, respect for language diversity as well as promoting the students' culture and home language and developing students' intercultural learning and communication. PDST have resources for primary teachers on their website here, which will be updated on an ongoing basis.

<https://www.pdst.ie/primary/literacy/EAL>

At post-Primary level PDST bespoke in-school support is available on request, focusing on working with teachers on the priority needs of including all children in the school community, whole school planning for EAL, teaching strategies for



inclusion, adapting lesson activities and providing strategies for specific language supports. To maximise inclusion of EAL learners in the classroom, Subject teachers can use approaches to actively reinforce the assets of bilingualism of their students.

Resources for PP EAL are available here
<https://www.pdst.ie/post-primary/literacy/eal>

PDST will also communicate directly with schools to set out the range of supports available in more detail.

Specific website links for schools are

<https://pdst.ie/primary/literacy/eal>

<https://pdst.ie/post-primary/literacy/eal>

Information for families

Officials welcoming people arriving from Ukraine at our ports and airports are providing families with essential information when they arrive. This includes basic information on children's right to education, and how to find a school place.

Information is being kept up to date on gov.ie/Ukraine in English, Ukrainian and Russian.

Children aged between 4 and 18 will be supported to access public primary or post-primary education provided by the State as appropriate.

Costs of attending school

Families may be entitled to supports provided by the Department of Social Protection. There is information on this in Ukrainian and Russian on gov.ie/Ukraine

School transport arrangements

The Department in consultation with Bus Éireann is putting in place a new process to facilitate the provision of School Transport Scheme Services for children arriving to Ireland from Ukraine.

When set up, there will be a link to a form (which will also be available in Ukrainian and Russian) for families/host families to complete in order to apply for school transport. This form will be available on Gov.ie and further information will be circulated shortly. Children will be accommodated quickly on existing services where there is capacity. Children will not be charged for their



ticket and normal eligibility criteria will be waived. If there is no service or capacity, a remote area grant can be offered to the family as appropriate.

Further details will issue shortly in regard to this process. In the meantime, Department is dealing with requests on a case by case basis. Queries/requests should be addressed to School Transport at transportapplications@education.gov.ie or by phone during office hours to 057 9325467.

Current status and future planning

For the present, the numbers of children registering in schools are small.

We anticipate this will rise considerably in the coming weeks. We appreciate this will put pressure on school places, and other supports, and are putting in place plans to support this. We will provide further details on how we hope to support schools and families impacted by this crisis in the coming weeks.

The Department of Justice is providing details of the numbers of arrivals aged under 18 to the Department so that we can plan for emerging need.

We are planning for the immediate, medium and longer term. As numbers rise, we will continue to work closely with other government departments and agencies to determine where people will be accommodated, as this will impact on where education provision will be needed.

The Department is working with Department of Further, Higher Education Innovation and Science to support a co-ordinated and family-centred approach across schools and further education to meeting English language needs of adults and children from Ukraine.

The Minister and Department appreciate that schools are adjusting to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions and that there has been significant change and disruption in the recent period.

School communities have been to the forefront of caring for children's wellbeing as well as education.

The humanitarian crisis facing the people of Ukraine now means that we will continue to be challenged in a different way. Thank you for all of your efforts to support them and to welcome them into our communities.

This St. Patrick's Day, the Department of Education's buildings in Dublin will be lit in blue and yellow in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir.