

SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY IRELAND



NEWSLETTER | SPRING/SUMMER 2023

We are proud to announce that, as of last week, we now have 19 Champion Schools of Sanctuary in Ireland, with the addition of a further 6 schools receiving their monitoring visits in May. Congratulations to all of our new Champions who enter into a new chapter of their Sanctuary journey. Please read on to learn about the schools and take a look at their beautiful Sanctuary portfolios.

And we continue to applaud and appreciate the Champion Schools who have achieved their accreditation previously- they had a wonderful day out on February 3rd for our first every Award Ceremony (more below!), which was the absolute highlight of the school year. Champion and Member schools continue to contribute SO much to the movement of sanctuary in their communities and in Ireland with their generosity, creativity, willingness to share and strong belief that they are part of a bigger picture of hope and love. 🙌🙌



CALLING ALL
PRIMARY SCHOOLS
TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR
ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES
FOR
WORLD REFUGEE WEEK

CLICK FOR INFO



19-22 JUNE

WORLD REFUGEE WEEK 2023

Schools of Sanctuary
CLICK FOR WEBSITE

Primary School Programme

MON 19 JUNE
Songs of Welcome (multilingual)
Junior, Senior, 1st & 2nd classes

TUES 20 JUNE
Short stories of Welcome (multilingual)
Junior, Senior, 1st & 2nd classes

WED 21 JUNE
Fun Live Quizzes for 3rd/4th and 5th/6th
Quiz preparation materials available in advance

THU 22 JUNE
Hello/Goodbye (on Zoom)
Share your WRW week story in images.
Slán speisialta to 6th class students

REGISTRATION DEADLINE!!! JUNE 12TH

ALL WEEK

- Explore the SoSI classroom activities and resources- something for every class!
- Learn about the Olympic Refugee Team and get involved with **World Olympic Day 2023**
- Hear a refugee's story (by request and arrangement with the SoSI team, availability limited)
- Reading suggestions for all ages

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



SANCTUARY AMBASSADORS



We thank our wonderful network of Sanctuary Ambassadors who have been endlessly supportive this school year. Whether speaking or helping out at an event, participating in a monitoring team, visiting schools, attending committee meetings and sharing their opinions and expertise, we cannot understate how much we value and love our Sanctuary Ambassadors.

We are so lucky to call you friends and we know our schools feel the same!

The Schools of Sanctuary Ireland Team

In April, our colleague Tetiana said goodbye to the team. We thank her for all of her hard work and dedication. Her translation ability in our webinar for Ukrainian parents last December was particularly impressive! Wishing Tetiana all the best on her next adventure!

Tiffany, Homayoon and Karen are available for any final consultations with schools before the summer holidays or you can book us in for a staff meeting in August to help you plan your Sanctuary journey in the 2023/2024 school year.

We look forward to a jam-packed new programme of activities and resources in September!



schools@ireland.cityofsanctuary.org



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MEET OUR NEW CHAMPION SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY!

ARDSCOIL NA MARA

TRAMORE
CO. WATERFORD



The SoSI monitoring team with students and teachers from Ardscoil Na Mara on the day of the monitoring visit

*"EVERY SCHOOL SHOULD WORK TOWARDS BECOMING A SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY!
SIGN THE PLEDGE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY"*

Charlotte Balfe, student at Ardscoil Na Mara

Ardscoil Na Mara in Tramore, Co. Waterford was awarded the status of a Champion School of Sanctuary on **April 26th, 2023**. The award monitoring team included Jacinta O'Rourke from Mount Sion CBS, Lorraine Whelan from St. Paul's Community College Waterford, Megan Duke from Presentation Primary School Watreford, Obianuju Ekedozie, a Sanctuary Ambassador and Homayoon Shirzad from Schools of Sanctuary Ireland. The visitors were welcomed by the Principal, Mr Cawley and Deputy Principal, Ms Denton as well as teachers Ms. Hally and Mr. McLaughlin

The team noted the staff's passion and support for the initiative. During their visit, the team observed a multicultural week with projects on different countries, face painting, and food sharing, facilitating cultural conversations among students. The school also had collaborations with other schools, a "greenhouse classroom," and initiatives such as paired science projects and sports programmes. The staff implemented practices like restorative justice and a "Friends for Life" empathy programmes.



Monitoring day coincided with Intercultural Day so the monitoring team certainly did not go home hungry! ☺

Click or scan to see
Ardscoil na Mara's
Sanctuary portfolio



Congratulations to Ardscoil Na Mara on receiving its accreditation and becoming the second Champion School of Sanctuary in Co. Waterford



MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL

KILBEGGAN CO. WESTMEATH



Current and past pupils of Mercy Secondary School and their teachers were so proud to welcome the SoSI monitoring team!

Even a burst water pipe and forced cancellation of classes on **May 8th** couldn't stop Mercy Secondary School from receiving its Champion School of Sanctuary status! In a remarkable show of commitment, a large number of students and teachers remained in the school to welcome the monitoring team. That team included a number of esteemed representatives from the Technological University Shannon - Frances O'Connell, Vice-President, Access Officers Jenny Burke and Mona Khan, and Sanctuary Scholarship students, Tika and Ibrahim. The monitoring team was also enhanced by two representatives (Gerry O'Callaghan, Leah Moloney) from local refugee support group, New Horizon Athlone.



Leaving Cert student Mohammed, reading a beautiful poem in Arabic

Click or scan to see
Mercy Secondary School's
Sanctuary portfolio



"BEING INVOLVED WITH SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY IS THE MOST FULFILLING THING I HAVE UNDERTAKEN IN MY CAREER. IT HAS OPENED MY EYES TO THE BEAUTY OF CELEBRATING DIVERSITY. THE SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY EXPERIENCE IS JOYFUL AND HEARTWARMING. I AM SO PROUD OF ALL OF MY STUDENTS WHO HAVE TAUGHT ME AND EACH OTHER SO MUCH"

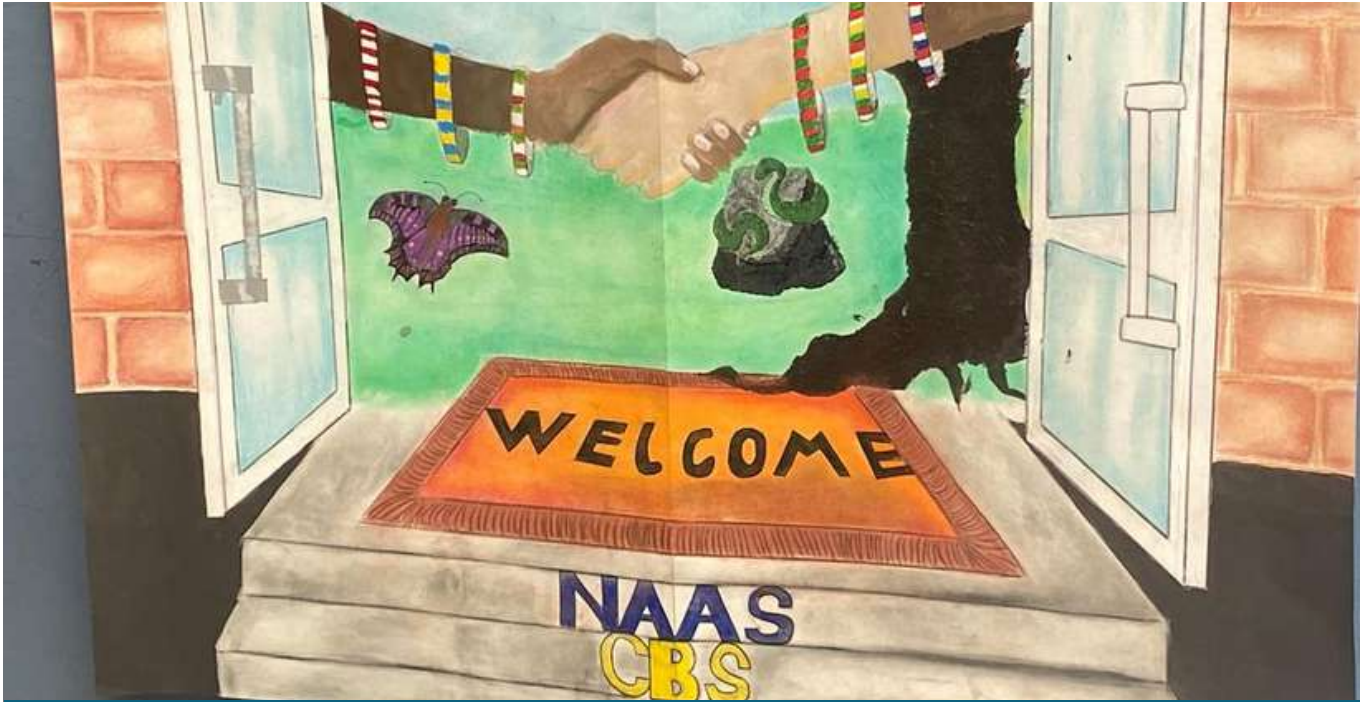
Sarah Corcoran, Teacher, Mercy SS

School Principal, Garrett Farrell, commended lead teachers Sarah Corcoran, Jenny Grennan and Aoife Whelehan for their passion for the Sanctuary ethos and journey, which he says has truly transformed the school and created a visible change in how newcomer students are welcomed and included. That welcome and inclusion was attested to by the incredible joy and pride we saw in all of the students that we met, including some past pupils and in the beautiful video presentation shown on the day. We heard a beautiful poem about peace in Arabic Mohammed and a few words from other students who enjoy sanctuary in the school also shared their joy in being students of this wonderful school.

Congratulations to Mercy Secondary School on receiving its accreditation and becoming the first Champion School of Sanctuary in Co. Westmeath

NAAS CBS (MEANSCOIL IOGNÁID NÁS)

NAAS
CO. KILDARE



Beautiful artwork by the school's art students- incredible talent to convey a deeply meaningful message

The excitement to become a Champion School of Sanctuary was palpable from the moment the SoSI monitoring team walked in the door on May 10th, greeted by Principal Ben Travers and Sanctuary lead teachers Ms Ward and Ms Prendiville. Aoife Titley, co-chairperson of Maynooth University Sanctuary and two wonderful Sanctuary Ambassadors, Kinda Nassli and Hashem Badran, both from Syria, joined Karen from SoSI for this inspiring visit to Naas. A very informative discussion with school management and the lead teachers assured the team about the school's ongoing commitment to the Sanctuary ethos. An understanding of sanctuary and social justice has been admirably woven into many strands of the curriculum.



Four students, Evan, Moez, Jakub and Conor guided a tour of the school and told us about the many wonderful school initiatives that celebrate welcome and inclusion. Their passion and pride in the school was obvious, as it was in the stunning video about Naas CBS' Sanctuary journey, expertly produced by 6th year student, Jamie. The team was delighted to hear a wonderful performance of "Lean On Me" by the school choir and have a chance to speak to all the 1st years about the true meaning of sanctuary and kindness. Kinda and Hashem spoke about what sanctuary means to them and their families, for which Principal Travers thanked them for sharing such meaningful lessons with the school, saying *'students will forget what we taught them, but they will never forget how we made them feel'*



Students, teachers and principal of Naas CBS with the SoSI team

You know what to do!



[CLICK FOR
BONUS VIDEO!](#)

Congratulations to Naas CBS on receiving its accreditation and becoming the first Champion School of Sanctuary in Co. Kildare

BUNCLODY VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

BUNCLODY
CO. WEXFORD

Bunclody Vocational College swept into Champion School of Sanctuary status on **May 15th**, the culmination of a year's hard work and foundations of acceptance and respect sown over many years. The monitoring team led by Aileen Kennedy, principal of Bunscoil Loreto, was deeply impacted by many indications of the whole school engaging with the programme, led by a large group of enthusiastic TYs. Students took responsibility for everything, welcoming and directing visitors, a multi-media presentation of the Sanctuary journey, the writing and performance of a moving song about the impact of careless racism, and a tour of the school showing the multiple ways that Sanctuary has become a natural part of life for everyone.

"THIS SCHOOL HAS MADE ME AND MY FAMILY FEEL REALLY WELCOME. I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I COULD COOK FOOD FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY, AND CHAT TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND IRISH PARENTS. MY DAUGHTER LOVES IT HERE, SHE FEELS SHE CAN BE HERSELF AND HER CONFIDENCE GROWS EVERY YEAR - SHE IS WORKING HARD AS WELL BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO BE A DOCTOR!"

Mohammad from Egypt,
a Bunclody Voc. College parent



Click or scan to see the school's Sanctuary portfolio



Bunclody Vocational College's international band, "Back Grounds", sang a song on monitoring day called 'Stand Up for Each Other'. It's a beautiful song that they wrote themselves about racism.

*"I AM DIFFERENT FROM YOU
THAT IS ALL YOU SEE
AND WHILE THAT IS TRUE
YOU DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW ME"*

Congratulations to Bunclody Vocation College on receiving its accreditation and becoming the fourth Champion School of Sanctuary in Co. Kildare

ST NATHY'S COLLEGE

BALLAGHADEREEN
CO. ROSCOMMON



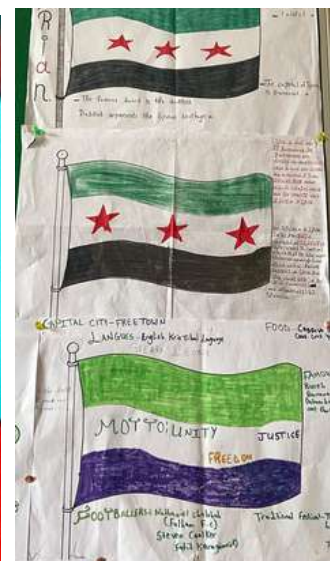
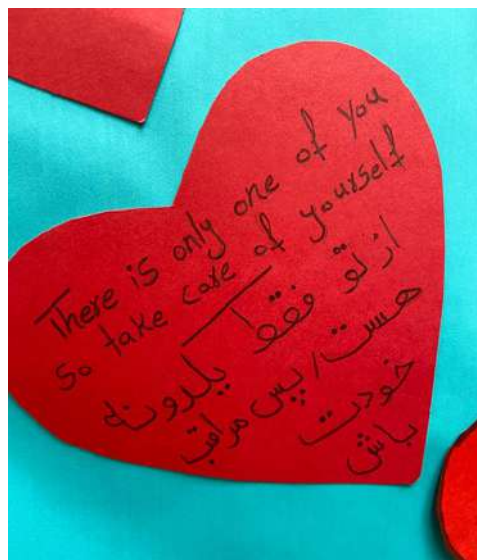
The practice of Sanctuary is as natural as breathing in St Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. The SoSI monitoring team- Karen Dervan, Tikambechi Mwalughali (Sanctuary Scholar, TUS) Cathy Joyce (BRIDGE Project, Galway City Partnership) and Darren Casserley (CKI, University of Galway)- felt this as soon as they arrived on May 18th.

The school (and town) has long supported families from the local Emergency Reception Orientation Centre in the town. The myriad ways in which St Nathy's facilitates students' often acute English language needs is truly inspiring, with every teacher embracing technological innovations to do so. (the portfolio's account of this technology is a must see!)

The understanding, compassion and detail of care for the most vulnerable students extends into everything the school does and this was clear in the smiles of all of the students we met. Some of the students have only been in Ireland for a short time but their sense of being safe and included in the school was palpable. A beautiful mural in the main entrance corridor of the school shows visitors that the school embraces diversity in the school- diversities of interests, talents and nationalities- and how they all live and flourish alongside each other. The school's EAL room is a place of sanctuary for the students, who are so cared for, and there is an impressive and growing multilingual library there. EAL teachers Ms Peyton and Ms Bruncker have themselves lead the sanctuary journey in the school, supported with a full heart by the principal Fr Martin Henry. Their care and love for their students is truly inspirational.



You know what to do!



Congratulations to St Nathy's College on receiving its accreditation and becoming the first Champion School of Sanctuary in Co. Roscommon

LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL

WEXFORD TOWN



On May 18th, Loreto Secondary School became Wexford's 5th Champion School of Sanctuary. The monitoring visit was the first visit by Ezana, a refugee from Ethiopia living in Rosslare direct provision centre, to a School of Sanctuary, joining five others in the team. Ezana was keen to give back to the community by helping with a programme that helps students of all backgrounds to understand and welcome newcomers. The visit impacted him deeply and at the end of a wonderful day of meetings, testimonies and tours, he said: *"I've got immeasurable inspiration from every single student in Loreto, and that all gave me more enlightenment, consciousness, determination and an advanced self-esteem & confidence than I have ever had."*

The school's sanctuary committee really led the day and drove all the events - from the presentation of the portfolio to the school tour and a very moving event in the library where three refugee students shared their story of fleeing war in their homelands and arriving in Ireland with nothing. The team included Noma, another Sanctuary Ambassador, Lorraine O Gorman, Director of Wexford Education Centre, Rob Cousins, a teacher from Kiltrane National School Rosslare (a Champion SoS) and Diarmuid Doolan from Wexford Local Development, and they unanimously voted Loreto to be an outstanding Champion School of Sanctuary



Proud student members of Loreto's Sanctuary committee!



Learn more about Loreto's Sanctuary Journey



Congratulations to Loreto Secondary School on receiving its accreditation and becoming the fifth Champion School of Sanctuary in Co. Wexford

FEBRUARY 3RD 2023

THE FIRST SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY IRELAND AWARD CEREMONY



On a bright and fresh Friday back in February, we held our first ever Award Ceremony for Champion Schools of Sanctuary. Thirteen schools received their certificates and plaques, presented by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Caroline Conroy. Technological University Dublin provided incredible hospitality and partnership for the event, for which we will be eternally grateful and the Registrar and Deputy President of TUD, Dr Mary Meaney, welcomed everyone to the beautiful TUD Concert Hall. The event was also attended by a multitude of friends and partners from across the sector of community and integration work. Guest speaker Ola Majekodunmi and MCs for the day Raneem Abubakr and Philip McKinley brought a wonderful warmth and joy to the occasion. The event was followed by a well-deserved bank holiday weekend!



Click or scan to view the inspiring highlights video from our February 3rd awards ceremony!



Big smiles all around from the Kilrane National School (Rosslare) gang!



Students and teacher, Julie, from North Pres. Secondary School Cork



Students and teachers from Bunscoil McAuley Rice, Callan, Co. Kilkenny



Our wonderful MCs, Raneem and Philip



Bunscoil Loreto Gorey, bringing us all to tears of joy with their singing!



Students and teachers from Blarney Street CBS Primary School Cork



Students (including past pupil Raneem!) and teachers from Creagh College, Gorey, Co Wexford.



Students and teachers from Largy College, Clones, Co Monaghan



All the gang from Desmond College, Newcastle West, Co Limerick



Fíodhna Gardiner Hyland, accepting on behalf of St Mary's NS Limerick



Students with their teacher Pablo, from Stepside Educate Together Secondary, Co. Dublin



Students from Mount Sion CBS Secondary Waterford



Margaret Grace, St John's Boys NS, Limerick



Students and teachers from Scoil Bhríde Shantalla, Galway (who travelled to Dublin by train for the event!)