School of Sanctuary

Gower College Swansea's Journey towards acreditation
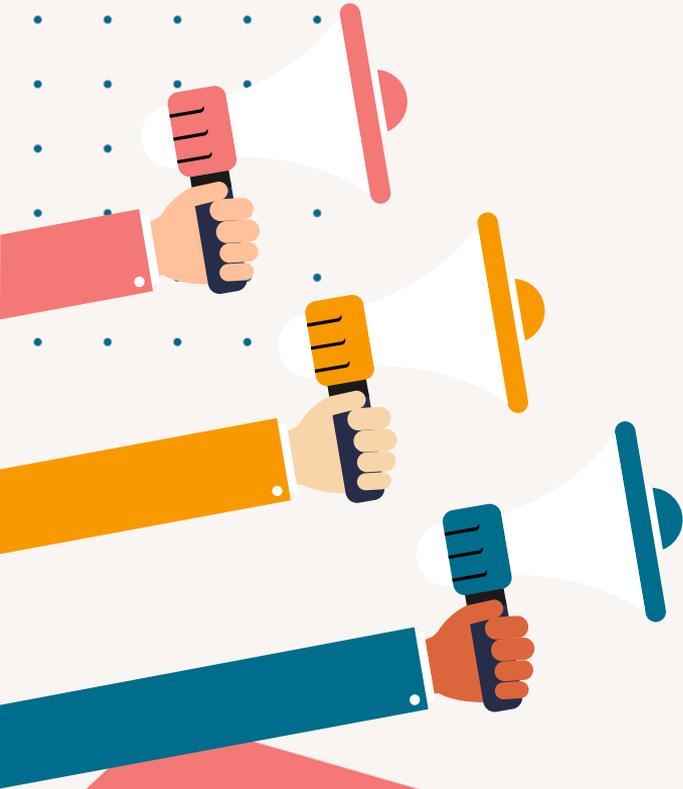
Table of Contents

Asylum Seeker

An **asylum seeker** is someone who is seeking international protection but whose claim for **refugee** status has not yet been determined. In contrast, a **refugee** is someone who has been recognised under the 1951 Convention relating to the status of **refugees** to be a **refugee**. There are Key differences –

College of Sanctuary

A College of Sanctuary is a college that is committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all, especially those seeking sanctuary. This could be people whose lives were in danger in their own country, who have troubles at home or are just looking for a space of safety.

A College of Sanctuary is a college that helps its students, staff and wider community understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary and to extend a welcome to everyone as **equal**, **valued** members of the college community. It is a college that is proud to be a place of **safety and inclusion for all.**

Three principles to be a college of Sanctuary

1. **Learn** about what it means to be seeking sanctuary.
2. Take positive action to **embed** concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion with our college and the wider community
3. **Share** our vision and achievements

Asylum seekers in the UK and barriers to education

Finance

Asyluym seekers are given an allowance of £36 per week to cover their costs.

Housing

Asylum seekers have no input to their accommodation location

Working

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work while their application is being processed. This process can take over 18 months.

Education

ALL Asylum seeker children face many barriers to education, financial ,language, isolation.

Gower College Overview of Barriers.

Working

A programme Delivered by Gower College Swansea, Aims to support people in the Swansea area to gain, retain and progress within employment.

Lots of referrals from Asylum seekers to our ESOL programme

ESOL (Language barriers)

In order for true integration language barriers have to be overcome – to give learners every chance of success we promote ESOL competency before progressing to other learning areas.

Finance

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work while their application is being processed. This process can take over 18 months. – Bus passes cost nearly £300 a year for students, Electronic devices, Remote learning, uniforms, equipment, books etc

Education

Time of arrival into the UK, post 16 courses are often not availble to those that do not arrive in time for the start of term.

We offer the opportunity to enroll in the college whatever time of the year.

Where did we start?

Learn	Embed	Share	
Presented to the College Governors, This was then presented to the SMT and trickled down amongst the learning areas.	Create welcome environment (Contact Theory, Mentor system offering)	Social media/college website (Highlight competitions ran throughout the college, or exhibitions)	
Curriculum Slowly introduced into our learning areas – talks from Refugee/asylum seeker stories	**Encourage first language maintenance (first language groups) –Chess club etc.**	**Collaborate exhibitions with other schools**	
Clubs &Societies Film Club, Debate Club, Art Club	**Celebrate through diversity events throughout the year.**	**Showcase work to parents, students and wider community**	

What next

We are in the process of compliling evidence to meet the criteria and working closely with City of Sanctuary to attain accredtiation. Aiming to be the first College in Wales to achieve this.

Embed

We are working with curricular leaders within the college to embed issues such as forced migration into learning

Share

Sharing our journey with you now, promoting work across Social media and hoping to colloaborate with other schools across Swansea.

End

Alternative Resources