

# CASE STUDY

## Cultural Education Packs for Schools



### Overview

June the 20th 2022 marked the United Nations' 22nd World Refugee Day, an international date established to recognise the strength and courage of those around the world who have had to flee their homes for safety.

Over the past year, Hampshire based community organisation Bridge to Unity have been delivering support to refugees arriving in the United Kingdom. Throughout this time, the impact of humanitarian crises on children has been overtly apparent.

Research\* shows that children with refugee status often feel isolated and excluded, as well as having a higher prevalence of anxiety and depression when compared to the general population. However, schools that encourage support systems and inclusion programmes consistently improve pupil well-being and reduce bullying.

\*<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3933416/>

**'It is our experiences working with refugees that inspired us to produce a product that could be used in schools to encourage inclusion and give children a chance to showcase, with a real sense of pride, the countries they are from.'**

Melanie Clark  
Community Director, Bridge to Unity



## So far...

To date there are two packs, one focused on the culture and history of Afghanistan and the other on Ukraine. Each pack has been produced with direct input from refugees and teachers to ensure they are both educational and culturally appropriate.

The packs are aimed at pupils aged four to eleven and contain seventeen activities, focused on topics including geography, maths and history. There are a wide range of activities from dot-to-dot and spot the difference aimed at the younger year groups, right up to and including maths and language-based activities aimed at older pupils.

Melanie Clark, Community Director for Bridge to Unity reflects;

'Seeing our packs go from an idea, through the writing and design process and to finally seeing them first-hand in schools being used as we intended, is really rewarding and exactly what we hoped for.'



**'I would unreservedly recommend the Education Packs to all primary schools in the UK and I would encourage others to support their uptake.'**

**Mrs Laura Newton**  
Headteacher, Emsworth Primary School



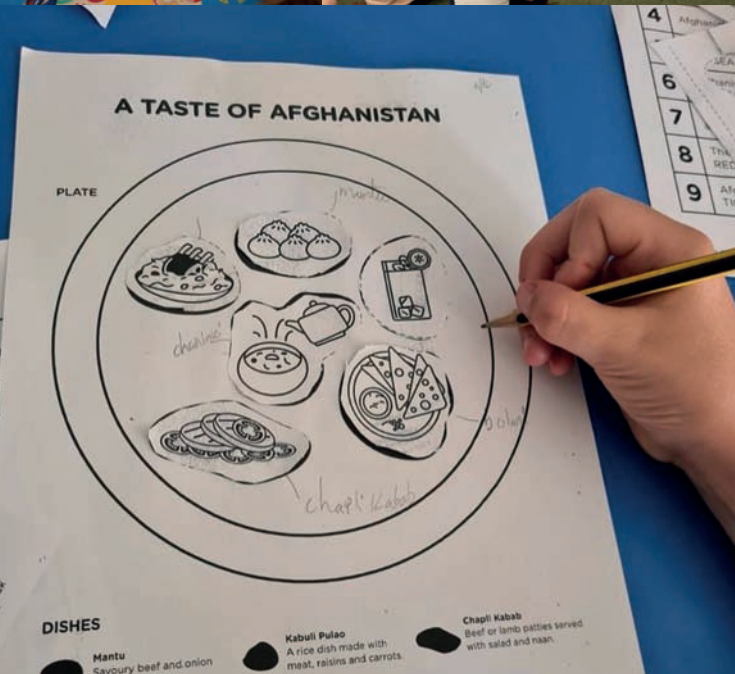
In acknowledgement of World Refugee Day, the Education Packs were formally launched at Emsworth Primary School on the 20th of June, where over 400 pupils took part in lessons focused on education about refugees, with the packs at the centre of all the activities.

Mrs Laura Newton, Headteacher, explains;

'Bridge to Unity have been working closely alongside us over the last year and we have supported one another in fundraising efforts but also in the support and care of the pupils in our school that have come to the UK as refugees...

We were straight away impressed with the attention to detail that had gone into the Education Packs. It was evident they had been developed with input from education professionals and they were designed to an incredibly high standard. The Education Packs were met with praise from all my members of staff and it was incredibly easy to incorporate the activities alongside our curriculum.'

The Education Packs were run over half a day, with each of the fourteen classes taking part in age appropriate activities, as selected by their teachers.



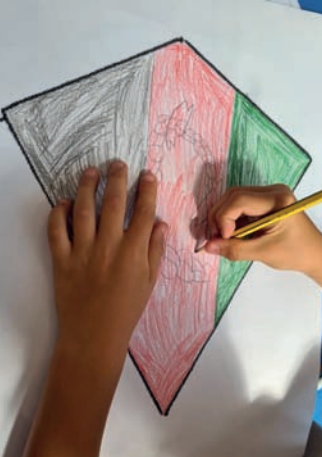


As well as classroom based activities, a number of children went to the school field to fly the kites they had made as part of the Afghanistan Education Packs, something that all involved found incredibly moving to watch.

Matt Simmons, Operations Director of Bridge to Unity explains;

'Kite flying is a national sport in Afghanistan, so it made perfect sense that we incorporated this into the Education Packs. We have always been and continue to be about inclusion and building relationships in the local community and seeing the entire school join together as one to share this experience encompasses everything we are about as an organisation.'

Many schools have already incorporated into their curriculum world issues that focus on human rights, refugees and global challenges, all aspects of the modern world that children will come in contact with as they grow.



**'Teaching my new friends about Afghanistan made me feel very proud. I enjoyed showing everyone how to say "hello" and "thank you" in Dari and my friends loved decorating and flying kites.'**

**Omar, 8  
Pupil at Emsworth Primary School**



Mrs Newton states;

'I would unreservedly recommend the Education Packs to all primary schools in the UK and I would encourage others to support their uptake. The ready made lesson plans and activities are both fun and informative and would be suited to schools whether or not they have refugees within their pupil cohorts...

Seeing our pupils from Afghanistan and Ukraine come together alongside their peers, talking so proudly about the countries they have left, teaching their peers about their national foods and cultural symbols was truly special. The children had such a sense of pride and it really did give them an opportunity to educate others and open their eyes to the world around them.'

Alexandra Kenchington, Logistics Director of Bridge to Unity, concludes;

'With increasing numbers of children settling in the UK with refugee status it is more important than ever that we educate pupils about important world issues and ensure we continue to strive for inclusion within the education system. Our education packs provide a stepping stone for these important conversations within schools and we hope that in time, we will see them in every school in the UK.'



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**Alexandra Kenchington**  
Logistics Director, Bridge to Unity



## Emsworth Primary School

Hampshire based Emsworth Primary School has 407 pupils ages 4 to 11 and is committed to inclusivity, something which underpins all of the education it delivers. Over the last year the school has welcomed a number of children from both Afghanistan and Ukraine and it is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of these pupils.

## Bridge to Unity

Bridge to Unity is a Community Interest Company (CIC), that offers support to those in need, with a primary focus on individuals and families being relocated to the United Kingdom as part of the on-going international refugee crisis. As well as offering practical assistance and support, they are committed to bringing the local community together through their projects and events.



**For more information about Bridge to Unity and the cultural education packs, please email: [info@bridgetounity.co.uk](mailto:info@bridgetounity.co.uk)**