

# Homes For Ukraine Guidance for Hosts from Caerphilly County Borough Council



#### **Welcome and Sources of Advice**

Thank you for registering your interest to sponsor a family or an individual arriving from Ukraine. We appreciate all you are doing to help the humanitarian effort and are here to help and support you. Caerphilly Council want to make sure that you have all the information you need to help you in your role as a host.

You can use this email for any queries or support required:

ukrainesupport@caerphilly.gov.uk

In addition, Welsh Government have set up a **Wales Nation of Sanctuary Ukraine Helpline** that will operate from 9am to 7pm, 7 days a week. This can be used by hosts <u>and</u> their guests:

Freephone within UK:

0808 175 1508

From Outside the UK:

020 4542 5671

+44 (0)20 4542 5671

Advice is available for your guests on a range of issues they may have immediate concerns with on the Nation of Sanctuary website. This website is fully translated. There is a section to support Ukrainian and an option to select language on the front page:

Sanctuary | Ukraine (gov.wales)

#### Introduction

This pack contains information regarding the Homes for Ukraine Scheme but will also be useful to family members of Ukrainian nationals who are providing support under the Ukraine Family Scheme. The information is intended to supplement advice guides available from UK and Welsh Government and contains information specific to Caerphilly and the services available locally.

#### **Homes For Ukraine Scheme**

UK Government Frequently Asked Questions: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions</a>

#### **Ukraine Family Scheme**

UK Government Frequently Asked Questions: <a href="https://settled.org.uk/ukraine-family-scheme-frequent-asked-questions/">https://settled.org.uk/ukraine-family-scheme-frequent-asked-questions/</a>

#### What happens next?

An officer from Caerphilly Council will be in contact to discuss visiting your property to check it is suitable for the Homes for Ukraine scheme in line with guidance from the UK Government. The Council will also need to arrange a DBS (Disclosure Barring Service) check, and a social services records check, for all adults living in your home. There will be no cost to you for any of these checks and all will be carried out in line with guidance from the UK Government.

#### **Welcoming Guests**

The UK Government Frequently Asked Questions should hopefully give you some guidance on setting up your home to receive guests. We have provided a checklist at the end of this guide that you might also find useful.

We appreciate that you may have some initial set-up costs to make your home suitable and so we will be allocating you an initial payment of £350 to help you meet any unexpected costs.

This will be available once you are matched with a guest, or guests, <u>and</u> they have arrived with you. We know that some hosting arrangements might not happen and so we will provide the initial payment to you as soon as possible after your guests arrive. This will be in addition to the monthly 'thank-you' payment that is being offered by UK Government for all hosts.

You will have no doubt thought about what you will be able to provide to your guests and will have been preparing before their arrival. In setting up your home we would advise that you look at it as if 'through the eyes of a stranger' and, in particular, think about any hazards that you may be used to but could be a risk to anyone else, especially children.

## **Safeguarding**

An officer from the Council will be in contact to arrange a DBS check for all people aged over 16 living in your home. If you would like to know a little more about DBS checks the UK Government website has some useful information on what checks entail and what documentation is required. When you are contacted all this will be explained to you.

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-identity-checking-guidelines

Your initial email from Caerphilly Council will have included guidance on what documentation is required for a DBS check. An officer from the Council will verify your original documents at the time they visit. The required documents will need to be provided for each person aged over 16 in the household.

In addition to DBS checks, the Council will make you aware that checks will be carried out on <u>all</u> occupants in your home against social services internal systems. The information gathering form for this check, DBS, property, and all other checks will have been sent to you in the initial email from the Council. Please can you ensure that when you return it that it includes details of everyone living in your property. Please return it to <u>ukrainesupport@caerphilly.gov.uk</u>

We would like you, and any adult in your household, to complete some on-line safeguarding training if you are able to do so. The link for this short course is here, please use the LOG IN AS GUEST button on the bottom left of the page:

https://learning.wales.nhs.uk/course/view.php?id=2555

## **Home Inspections**

A member of staff from the Council will arrange to visit your property and carry out an inspection in line with guidance from the UK Government.

The following is in the guidance from the UK Government:

# What do I need to do to make sure my home is suitable for my guest?

All accommodation will be different and while there is no set expectation, your accommodation needs to be free from serious health and safety hazards. You should make sure your home is safe for your guests and that it is in a suitable condition. You should also consider how many people you can accommodate so they have sufficient space. Two people should not be in one room unless they are: adult cohabiting partners; a parent and child; two siblings of the same gender if aged over 10; two siblings regardless of gender if aged under 10. Individuals who didn't previously know each other should not be given the same room.

Further to this we ask that accommodation:

- be kept clean and in a reasonable state.
- have adequate kitchen and bathroom space.
- have access to drinking water.
- have a working smoke detector on each floor of the property and other fire safety
  precautions suitable for the building e.g. fire doors or escape routes as
  appropriate (further information on <u>making a home safe from fire</u>;
- have a working carbon monoxide detector in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance (e.g., a coal fire, wood burning stove).
- have sufficient heating to keep the property at a comfortable temperature.
- have safe gas appliances, fittings and flues and have undertaken a Gas Safety check within the last year (see <u>more information</u>);
- have safe and working electrics, which a qualified electrician can help with if you are unsure.
- be almost entirely free of damp or mould.
- have doors and windows at entry level that lock properly.
- be easy and safe to move around in, without excessively steep staircases that may cause harm.

Additionally, you may wish to consider the age group of your guests and ensure you have considered any potential risks, for example an uncovered pond or unguarded fire. If you are welcoming children with their parents, then their safety and security is the responsibility of the parent, however, you may want to look at hazards in your home before arrival. You might want to consider if you have pets or if your guests are bringing pets into your home and any safety risks associated with this.

It will be for you to decide any rules around smoking in your home and you may want to discuss that with a guest if they smoke or inform them of any arrangements you are willing to make if you smoke.

#### **Financial Support**

The Council will be accessing additional finance to support arrivals under the 'Homes for Ukraine Scheme', but <u>not</u> for the 'Ukraine Family Scheme'. In the initial stages we will be providing a £350 set-up allowance to help you meet any unforeseen costs. The Council will also be administering the UK Government 'thank-you' payment to hosts which you will receive one-month in arrears for arrivals. We are not clear yet whether this payment will come to an end after the first twelve-month period, however, we will keep you informed.

We will need to collect your bank account details to enable us to process these payments to you. We will aim to do this as soon as possible after your guests arrive. You **must notify us** if your guests end their stay at your property or make alternative accommodation arrangements. Any overpayment after guests have left will be reclaimed by the Council.

The following is guidance from the UK Government website:

- You should not charge any rent. We appreciate people's generosity and do
  know that there will be costs associated with helping out, and so we are
  offering an optional 'thank you' payment of £350 per month to people who
  can accommodate one or more households (subject to the accommodation
  they have).
- The 'thank you' payment is limited to **one payment per residential address**. You will continue to receive payments for as long as you sponsor somebody and for up to 12 months. This payment will be made in arrears.
- The UK government is ensuring 'thank you payments' do not affect benefit
  entitlement and will remain tax-free. Prior to payment, checks will be carried
  out which will include a visit to your home.

An officer from Caerphilly Council will arrange a cash payment for your guests to support them while any benefit applications are being processed. This will be an initial amount of £300 in cash per person. Please note that there is no expectation that your guests will pass any of this money to you to cover your expenses. Guests will be able to apply for benefits such as Universal Credit.

The Nation of Sanctuary Website has a section for Ukrainian arrivals and your guests may find some useful information there on issue such as finance, benefits, health, education, personal safety, and immigration law. The website has been translated into Ukrainian.

# Sanctuary | Ukraine (gov.wales)

Please ensure you inform Caerphilly Council of the arrival dates of your guests so that we can arrange any payments to both you and your guests.

The Council will also provide a laptop for your guest to ensure they have connectivity – please contact us on <a href="mailto:ukrainesupport@caerphilly.gov.uk">ukrainesupport@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> to let us know when your guest is arriving and if they need a laptop and/or a mobile phone.

The UK Government is providing funding at a rate of £10,500 per person, to cover resettlement support, and is intended to also cover health costs, for the first year, to support families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. The UK Government has not been specific whether there will be funding beyond the first year.

Additional funding will be provided to local authorities to provide education services for children from families arriving from Ukraine, again for the first year initially, on a per pupil basis for the three phases of education at the following annual rates:

- early years (ages 2 to 4): £3,000
- primary (ages 5 to 11): £6,580
- secondary (ages 11 to 18): £8,755.

This includes support for children with special educational needs (SEN).

The funding is for the use of the Council in providing resettlement support and may be used for things such as education support, ESOL lessons (English for Speakers of Other Languages), training, providing help in setting up a tenancy etc.

#### **Supporting Guests**

When your guest arrives from Ukraine, they will need support to sort out the following areas urgently:

- Register with a GP
- Arrange any medication if required
- Claiming social security benefits and getting a National Insurance Number
- Arranging a Biometric Residence permit
- Opening a bank account
- Contacting Caerphilly Council to arrange cash support while waiting for benefits
- Contacting Caerphilly Council if your guest requires a laptop or mobile phone
- Register with a dentist
- Childcare and education services

Details of Caerphilly specific services and agencies can be found below in the Caerphilly Local Information section.

If you require assistance in arranging any of these services, then please contact Caerphilly Council on this email and we will arrange support: ukrainesupport@caerphilly.gov.uk

# **Caerphilly Local Information**



#### **Schools**

Please use this link for information about schools in Caerphilly:

https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/Schools

#### Health

Use this link to find a GP surgery in your area and support your guest to register:

https://www.wales.nhs.uk/ourservices/directory/aneurinbevanuniversityhealthboard/gps

Use this link for mental health services in Caerphilly:

https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Services-for-adults-and-older-people/Mental-health

Use this link for a list of dentists in Caerphilly and surrounding areas:

https://www.wales.nhs.uk/ourservices/directory/aneurinbevanuniversityhealthboard/dentists

## **Applying for Benefits**

The following is information regarding benefits provided by the UK Government:

The UK has a welfare system which is designed to help those who face financial hardship, or who have specific needs. All those from Ukraine coming to the country under the scheme will be able to seek and take up employment.

Your local Jobcentre Plus will be able to help you find out which benefits your guest may be able to access. This may include:

- Universal Credit a payment for those of working age, to help with your living costs if you're on a low income. You could be working (including self-employed or part time) or be out of work.
- Pension Credit extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age which is 66 in the UK and on a low income.

 Disability benefits – extra money to help with additional costs for those who have a long term physical or mental health condition or disability.

• Carer's Allowance – extra money if you care for someone at least 35 hours a week.

• Child Benefit – extra money to help with the cost of raising a child.

Here is a link for Jobcentres in Caerphilly:

https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/caerphilly-jobcentre

#### **Biometric Residence Permit**

A biometric residence permit is proof of evidence of your right to live, work and study in the UK. This can be used as proof of identity when opening a bank account or renting a property. The electronic chip holds information such as name, date of birth and place of birth. It will also have your photograph, fingerprints, and your immigration status.

#### **Working in Wales**

Many Ukrainians will want to work and have the right to work as soon as they arrive in the UK. Careers Wales can help people to plan their career, prepare to get a job, and find and apply for the right apprenticeships, courses, and training. More information is here: <a href="https://careerswales.gov.wales/">https://careerswales.gov.wales/</a>

#### **Transport**

Details of information regarding free travel for people coming from Ukraine, follow this link: <a href="https://gov.wales/wales-offers-free-rail-travel-for-ukrainian-refugees">https://gov.wales/wales-offers-free-rail-travel-for-ukrainian-refugees</a>

## **Safeguarding contacts**

Use this link if you require any information or support with safeguarding for children and adults:

https://www.caerffili.gov.uk/Search-

Result?searchtext=Safeguarding%20&searchmode=allwords&lang=en-GB

For any urgent risks or concerns then you should always dial 999

**ESOL** (English For Speakers of Other Languages)

Supporting your guest with English as a second or foreign language then use this link:

https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/Adult-learning/Courses

**Flying Start** 

Flying Start is a Welsh Government funded programme and is available in targeted areas to support families to give 0–3-year-olds a Flying Start in life. This may be useful for your guest if they have a child 0 -3.

The following link provides further details:

https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/flyingstart

**Citizens Advice** 

This is the link for Citizens Advice in Caerphilly if you require support with any information or services: <a href="https://www.citizensadvicecbg.org.uk/">https://www.citizensadvicecbg.org.uk/</a>

**GAVO** 

GAVO provides support and advice for community and voluntary groups, social enterprises as well as individuals who are interested in helping and supporting their communities. GAVO also provides direct services in communities across Gwent.

Please use this link for further information:

https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Benefits-and-grants/GAVO-grants/GAVO-support-and-advice

# **Useful Contacts**

CALL Mental Health Helpline	CALL Mental Health Helpline for Wales Confidential Listening and Support Service
Welsh Refugee Council (Wales)	Home - Welsh Refugee Council (wrc.wales)
Oasis (Cardiff)	Oasis Cardiff
Diverse Cymru (Wales)	Diverse Cymru Homepage   Diverse Cymru
The Sanctuary (Newport)	The Sanctuary - The Gap
Displaced People in Action (Wales)	DPIA - Supporting Refugees & Asylum Seekers in Wales since 2001
EYST (Wales)	EYST - Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales - Supporting BME people living in Wales.
British Red Cross (Wales)	Contact your local refugee service (redcross.org.uk)
BAME Helpline Wales (Wales)	BAME Helpline Wales
Trinity Centre (Cardiff)	Welcome to the Trinity Centre Cardiff

# **Suggested Checklist for Hosts to support Guests**

# For any queries, please contact Caerphilly Council:

ukrainesupport@caerphilly.gov.uk

DAY ONE	
MEET AND GREET NEW ARRIVALS (MAYBE WITH A FEW TOYS FOR ANY CHILDREN)	
ENSURE YOU HAVE CONTACTED CAERPHILLY COUNCIL TO LET THEM KNOW YOUR	
GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED.	
USE THE GUIDANCE FOR GUESTS PROVIDED BY CAERPHILLY COUNCIL TO EXPLAIN	
THE PROCESSES INVOLVED IN RELATION TO THE INITIAL CASH PAYMENT THAT WILL	
BE PROVIDED TO THEM AT £300 PER PERSON. THIS IS TO HELP SUPPORT THEM	
UNTIL ANY NECESSARY BENEFITS ARE CLAIMED.	
SHOW YOUR GUEST AROUND YOUR PROPERTY AND HIGHLIGHT ANY RISKS SUCH AS	
STEEP STEPS, UNCOVERED PONDS, UNGUARDED FIRES OR ANYTHING YOU	
CONSIDER A RISK. PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION IF YOU ARE WELCOMING A FAMILY	
WITH CHILDREN.	
EXPLAIN HOW TO USE ANYTHING IN THE KITCHEN OR BATHROOM ESPECIALLY IF	
THEY WILL BE PROVIDING THEIR OWN MEALS.	
ENSURE YOU EXPLAIN HOW YOUR GUEST CAN ACCESS REQUIRED AREAS OF YOUR	
HOME AND ANY ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING KEYS OR LOCKING THE PROPERTY.	
IF YOU HAVE HOME WI-FI SHOW YOUR GUESTS HOW TO ACCESS IT. THEY MAY HAVE	
SMARTPHONES OR LAPTOPS. THE COUNCIL WILL BE MAKING SURE THAT ALL	
ARRIVALS HAVE A MEANS OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND	
THAT THEY CAN HELP THEMSELVES BY SOURCING SUPPORT ON WEBSITES.	
ASK WHETHER YOUR GUESTS HAVE ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS (IF SO, PROVIDE	
ADVICE). YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR YOUR GUESTS.	
TAKE NOTE OF NAMES/SURNAMES/DOB OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS ACCURATELY	
FOR ADMINISTRATION PURPOSES.	
IF YOU FIND THAT YOUR GUESTS HAVE PARTCILCULR NEEDS CONNECTED TO A	
DISABILITY OR OTHER VULNERABILITY YOU WERE UNAWARE OF PLEASE CONTACT	
THE COUNCIL ON THE E MAIL ADDRESS ABOVE STRAIGHT AWAY OR CALL	
'CAERPHILLY CARES' ON 01443 811490. FOR <b>EMERGENCY ONLY</b> OUT OF HOURS	
SOCIAL SERVICES HELP PLEASE CALL 0800 3284432.	
IF YOUR GUESTS ARE SMOKERS, AND YOU ARE NOT, POLITELY EXPLAIN YOUR VIEWS	
AND OFFER THEM A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN SMOKE.	
ENSURE YOUR GUESTS ARE REGISTERED WITH A GP AND CHECK IF ANY EMERGENCY	
MEDICATION IS REQUIRED. THE HEALTH BOARD WILL BE OFFERING SCREENING AND	
HEALTH CHECKS TO ALL ARRIVALS ALONG WITH CATCH-UP IMMUNISATIONS IF	
REQUIRED.	
EXPLAIN HOW TO CALL 999 FOR EMERGENCIES. LIKE MOST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES	
112 IS USED IN UKRAINE.	

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER QUITE QUICKLY AFTER ARRIVAL	
SUPPORT YOUR GUESTS TO REGISTER FOR BENEFITS AND ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE	
RECEIVED THEIR £300 CASH PAYMENT.	
PROVIDE KEY TELEPHONE CONTACTS THAT YOU THINK THEY MAY NEED. PUBLIC	
SERVICES SHOULD BE SET UP TO USE THE 'LANGUAGE LINE' INTERPRETATION	
SERVICE FOR ANY PEOPLE WHO CANNOT CONVERSE IN ENGLISH.	
SUPPORT GUESTS TO REGISTER FOR A BIOMETRIC RESIDENCY PERMIT (BRP), AND A	
NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER.	
THE DAY AFTER ARRIVAL	
EXPLAIN WASTE COLLECTION DAYS AND WHAT GOES IN WHICH BINS	
TAKE NOTE OF NAMES/SURNAMES/DOB OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS ACCURATELY	
FOR ADMINISTRATION PURPOSES.	
SHOW THEM HOW TO NAVIGATE THE SANCTUARY WEBSITE TO LEARN ABOUT	
WALES AND THEIR RIGHTS. THERE IS A UKRAINIAN TRANSLATION OF ALL MATERIALS	
ON THE WEBSITE https://sanctuary.gov.wales/	
IMMEDIATE ORIENTATION: ACCOMPANY GUESTS TO THE FOLLOWING LOCAL AMENITIES:	
NEAREST LARGE SUPERMARKET (e.g. MORRISONS, ASDA etc.)	
DISCOUNT SUPERMARKET (e.g. ALDI) & POUND SHOP	
GP SURGERY AND PHARMACIST	
NEAREST BUS STOP	
POST OFFICE	
LIBRARY / COMMUNITY CENTRES /LEISURE CENTRES	
TRAIN STATION	
POLICE STATION	
REMAINDER OF THE FIRST MONTH AFTER ARRIVAL	
FURTHER ORIENTATION TRIPS AROUND IMMEDIATE LOCALITY AND AN	
EXPLANATION OF THE WIDER TRANSPORT NETWORKS AVAILABLE ACROSS THE UK.	
NOTE THAT FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE IN WALES FOR THE FIRST SIX-	
MONTHS AFTER ARRIVAL AS EXPLAINED IN THE GUEST WELCOME PACK.	
FAMILIARISE THE FAMILY WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT BY TAKING THEM ON A TRIP ON	
THE BUS AND TRAIN TO NEWPORT AND CARDIFF.	
INITIAL LIASION WITH KEY SERVICE PROVIDERS (EDUCATION, HEALTH BOARD,	
POLICE) OBTAIN HEALTHY START VOUCHERS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD	
ASK WHETHER YOUR GUESTS HAVE INTEREST IN ANY SPECIFIC RELIGION (IF SO, PROVIDE ADVICE)	
EDUCATE Guests ABOUT RULES AND LAWS IN WALES REGARDING SMOKING, LITTER,	
ALCOHOL, SPITTING, etc.	
REGISTRATION WITH LOCAL LIBRARY	
NEGISTRATION WITH LOCAL LIDIANI	

ACCOMPANYING GUESTS (ON FIRST VISIT) TO THE LOCATION OF ENGLISH CLASSES (ESOL)	
BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH CAREERS WALES TO CREATE A CV	
MONTHS TWO TO TWELVE AFTER ARRIVAL	
ASK WHETHER YOUR GUESTS HAVE INTEREST IN ANY SPECIFIC SPORTS / HOBBIES (IF	
SO, PROVIDE ADVICE)	
ASK WHETHER YOUR GUESTS ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING (IF SO, PROVIDE	
ADVICE)	
SUPPORT GUESTS BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WITH ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT:	
HELPING WITH JOB SEARCHING, ARRANGING INTERVIEW SKILLS & CV COMPLETION	
COURSES	
GENERAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
ONGOING TASKS THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD	
KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE COUNCIL IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES, CONCERNS OR	
QUERIES	
REMEMBER THAT WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS AMAZINGLY GENEROUS. WE WILL AIM TO PROV	VIDE YOU WITH AS MUCH
SUPPORT AS WE CAN ALONG THE WAY.	



#### **Homes for Ukraine - Sponsor checks**

The purpose of these checks is to confirm the suitability of the sponsor/host and relevant family members. Checks and references to be undertaken on all members of the household, including: Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS), Niche Police Records, Police National Computer (PNC) checks, Local Authority Social Services Departments, Housing (including home inspection), Education departments, where relevant, and any other relevant checks in connection with the Ukrainian settlement scheme for hosting/sponsoring.

Full Name of Sponsor:	Full Name of Sponsor:
Gender:	Gender:
Date of Birth:	Date of Birth
Maiden/Previous Name:	Maiden/Previous Name:
Present Address:	Present Address:
Previous Addresses in Last 5 years:	Previous Addresses in Last 5 years
Other members of the Household Name	DOB

# How we will use your information

Under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, your information may be processed by Caerphilly County Borough Council in order to support Ukrainian people with; Housing, Education, Health and integration into the community, as well as supporting the people who volunteer to sponsor Ukrainian people and their families.

As part of this process we will undertake an assessment to establish what support we can put in place for the Ukrainian people; as well as assessing the Sponsor household. To provide the support needed your information may be shared with council departments and other agencies. We will keep a record of the support that we will be providing and may undertake regular reviews to establish whether the programme is working, or whether we need to change anything to help. This will include developing post arrival support plans involving organisations such as health and support services.

The lawful basis for processing your information will be Article 6 (1)(c) - Legal obligation - to comply with our legal obligations in relation to providing housing, education, benefit support etc. and Article 6(1)(e) -to perform a task in the public interest or for our official functions - to provide the appropriate level of support. The Council will hold your personal data only for the period that is necessary and will follow organisational and Local Authority standards in this area. At the end of the retention period the Council will securely destroy or dispose of the data in line with retention schedules.

You have a number of rights in relation to the information including the right of access to information we hold about you and the right of complaint if you are unhappy with the way your information is being processed.

For further information on how we process your information and your rights please click the following link:

 $\underline{www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/FOI/PrivacyNotices/Homes-for-Ulkraine-privacy-notice.aspx}$ 

# **Facts About Ukraine**



- Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe in terms of total area—
   spanning 603.55 square km (or 233 square miles twice the size of Italy!)
- Although when asked to think of a Ukrainian food, many people are likely to say the humble chicken kiev (which actually was probably not invented in Ukraine at all), the national Ukrainian dish is actually *borscht*, a distinctive red soup made from beetroot and beef.
- The official language of Ukraine is of course Ukrainian, however, there are 20 different languages spoken in Ukraine. 18% of Ukrainians are English speakers.

- Ukraine is home to one of our favourite holiday pastimes Easter eggs!
   Originally coloured and patterned using wax and dye, we have Ukraine to thank for our favourite decorative treat.
- Standing at 2,061 metres, Mount Hoverla, part of the Carpathian Mountains which fall into Western Ukraine, is the tallest peak in Ukraine and a popular site for extreme sports.
- Ukraine is often called the "Breadbasket of Europe" because it boasts the ideal conditions for growing wheat and is a major producer of the stuff.
- Ukraine is bordered to the south by the Black Sea, and here they have control
  over Zymiinyi Island, known commonly as Snake Island due to the residents.
  It's the only natural home of the critically endangered Golden Lancehead Pit
  Viper, which were trapped on the island in the last Ice Age.

Source: <a href="https://www.worldvision.org.uk/about/blogs/facts-about-ukraine/">https://www.worldvision.org.uk/about/blogs/facts-about-ukraine/</a>

- The time zone in Ukraine is 2 hours ahead of UK time
- The currency in Ukraine is Ukrainian hryvnia

## Thank you/diolch for all your support!

