



# Action plan - reaction to the war

# *in Ukraine*

Transylvania College

*Dear all,*

This is the first version of the action plan as a reaction to the war in Ukraine. The plan will be adapted, changed ongoing as the situation evolves.

**It's hard to carry on with teaching and learning as usual so let's look at ways to support the students and show them something else: empathy, compassion, vulnerability, unity, communion.**

**The Plan below is the way we choose to show up as a community to the crises.**

- Transylvania College - for our students, families, and staff with an impact in our lives and the refugees we can support.
- Spark Hybrid School - for refugees.
- Romanian and Ukrainian children - Transylvania College and Scoala Incredereii with Ruxandra's leadership have started an Emergency Education Fund (more to come).

This action plan and all the materials that will be created will be shared with other schools in Romania (Scoala Incredereii and other International Schools).

## *End in mind for students*

Build **EMPATHY** and **KINDNESS**: put themselves in other people's shoes.

Raise **AWARENESS**: understand more about history, conflicts.

Continue **LEARNING**: integrate into the current lessons so students learn how to read the current situation.

Inspire **ACTION**: each one can have a contribution to every situation.



# Our Community

## Students

- Kindergarten, Lower Primary- teachers do activities in the classrooms
- Upper Primary Assembly
- Middle School Assembly
- High School Assembly with guest speakers
- Teaching- Integrate into lessons- see below ideas we have put together
- Volunteer- find ways for them to volunteer, for example Y13 volunteer to translate
- Empower students to lead projects
- Fundraise for Emergency Education Fund
- Yoga Lessons with Miss Elena
- Create and hold space for emotions, thoughts, reflections and look beyond the behavior to understand the needs of students - during their time in school  
*-Wellbeing Advisors are available for individual and group meetings. Teachers are aware of the impact of a crisis in the life of each and build trusting relationships through hardship.*

## Families



- Offer expertise- volunteers for translations
- Volunteer- reach out to parent volunteers (the ones that volunteered for cover and others) with opportunities to help in our community and beyond
- Jobs- look at jobs available in their companies, organizations and offer to employ refugees
- Fundraise for Emergency Education Fund
- Offer accommodation to refugees that come through the school

# Our Community

## Staff

- Create and hold space for emotions, thoughts and reflections of each other and students
- Monday- 7th of March- meeting all staff
- Set and hold limits for each other and students- in uncertainty we need to look for limits as a way to create safety.
- Being consistent with the 3 rules and 4 behaviors below is key to creating a more secure classroom and school.
  - The 3 rules and behaviors:  
Be proactive, Think Win-Win, Seek First to Understand,
  - with the 4 behaviors: Do the right thing, I act with kindness, I own my contribution and repair, Help another make the right choice
- Teaching- Integrate into lessons- see below ideas we have put together
- 1:1 sessions with Miss Cristina, Miss Elena, Miss Olga
- Volunteer- find ways for staff to offer support
- Fundraise for Emergency Education Fund

## Middle and Senior Leaders

- Lead British School Overseas Inspection (9-11th of March)
- Create and hold space for all emotions and thoughts of students and staff
- Offer emotional support to staff going through grief, anxiety, depression
- Set and hold limits for each other and students- in uncertainty we need to look for limits as a way to create safety.
- Being consistent with the 3 rules and 4 behaviors below is key to creating a more secure classroom and school.
  - The 3 rules and behaviors: Be proactive, Think Win-Win, Seek First to Understand,
  - with the 4 behaviors: Do the right thing, I act with kindness, I own my contribution and repair, Help another make the right choice
- Conduct fire drills.
- Work with authorities for a plan for evacuation in case of an emergency in our community.
- Lead this action plan and contribute beyond Transylvania College community

## Staff and Students from British School of Ukraine

- Meeting Hub for Children or Families
- Host and accommodate teachers and families from British School of Ukraine-Ukrainian and expats, in Cluj or other cities
- Free Tuition in Spark Hybrid High School
- Free Tuition in Transylvania College if they come to Cluj
- Jobs for teachers- Transylvania College and Spark

## Refugees or expats from Ukraine (coming to Cluj)

- Free Tuition- at least 30 places across kindergarten and school
- Accommodation in families
- Translate from Ukrainian or Russian to Romanian
- Sport and Art activities (have a list of Clubs and contact details)



## **Discussions /Lessons /Debates :**

- Discuss the war in a historical context.
- Make the students aware of the current situation.
- Mention what is going on, but that it is not a war of one person and not all Russians are automatically supporting the aggression. To avoid hate in the community.
- To discuss the atrocity that a war can bring upon humanity.
- Offer them space to ask questions, to be sad, or to not be able to focus on lessons.
- Continue with the normal lessons, but without the pressure on academics.
- Use the platforms The Day and News Decoders to offer them information and a platform for discussions.
- Bring speakers/specialists to explain or answer questions about the conflict/support already offered - city hall/embassies/NGOs.

- Offer them workshops about the history of Ukraine.
- Explain what the European Union and NATO are and why it is important for us to be a part of these transnational institutions.
- Teach them about propaganda and misinformation and where to get official/relevant information.
- Explain the meaning of "the fog of war" so they understand that it is not a question of all media resources misinform but that it is difficult to report and check on events on such a rapid move.





- Allow them to learn about these institutions that help us preserve our values UN, EU, NATO, Amnesty International, and many more NGOs - local ones included.
- Discuss current events through assemblies or form tutor groups, give people support.
- Teach them empathy by acknowledging that this is an extremely important moment in time, so, we stop to digest it and to help them make sense of it and help them understand how they can help or how to relate to those who suffer.
- Integrate into the Humanities and Arts classes topics related to what is happening now in this world and of helping children to understand much of the information in the media but also to learn about what has happened in past and how we managed to overcome difficult situations like this one.

### ***For example:***

- History lessons - on dictators and autocratic systems - the history of Stalinist Russia/ URSS; Cold War. Lessons on EU, NATO, UN.
- Music lessons - listen and talk about the music that has been sung during anti-war protests and pacifist movements.
- Art lessons - art against the war - artists who have militated against the war through their art.
- Economics/Business lessons on SWIFT, transnationals/conglomerates - effects of the withdrawal of Russia from the international markets.
- Geography lessons - on natural resources, fossil fuels, renewable energy, nuclear - green or polluting - radioactive hazard, energetical independence, geopolitics etc.

## *Create space and context for feelings, thoughts, reflections:*

- Let them express their thoughts and feelings within discussion panels. Teach how to handle emotions, learn how to express grief,
- Dealing with anxiety on day to day basis and keeping hope alive since many students already feel that nothing is worth doing anymore



## **Awareness/ Getting involved:**

- Acknowledge this moment is an extremely good starting point for conversations about what we can do when we are together and not just at the micro-community level, but as citizens of the world
- Raise awareness of gratefulness, compassion, and acceptance. Raising awareness on how we are all connected and how our everyday choices influence our lives. Raising awareness on the idea that the others are also ourselves but in different shapes. Raising awareness on how ignorance and automatic egocentric reactions can destroy.
- Talk to students and explain to them that only humans can fix this situation and how important it is to contribute with everything we can to help others.
- Convey to students about what the school does in this regard, what the city hall does, what Romania, the EU, and other countries do to support Ukraine, and the efforts to restore peace and end the conflict.

*May we all choose peace,  
kindness and common humanity.*