

# My Story as an International New Arrival

by Ayaan Asif 3SE



*When did you join Oswald Road Primary School?*

I started in this school in September 2016.



*Where did you live before you came to the UK?*

I was born in Pakistan and then when I was two years old I went to live in France and then I moved to Barcelona in Spain. I can speak Spanish because I went to school in Barcelona.

*What language do you speak at home?*

When I am at home I speak Urdu with my family. We watch English TV, I think that watching TV in English has really helped me learn the language. I love watching CITV, CBBC, KIX and POP. I have a little brother who also likes to watch CBeebies and he is learning to speak English too.

*Could you speak or understand English before you came to Manchester?*

I could speak a little bit of English – I could say “Yes” and “No”. But I was fluent in Urdu and Spanish and now I can speak good English – the children in my class really helped me when I first started at school. Harry and Evan were very kind when I started in their class and they are my best friends now.

*How did you feel on your first day at Oswald Road Primary School?*

I was nervous and worried because when I started school in Spain the children were mean to me. On my first day at school in Barcelona some of the children pushed me over. I was the only Muslim child in my school in Spain and a lot of the children called me racist names and would hit me, so I was very scared when I started school here.

I was so happy after my first day at Oswald Road because everyone was kind and friendly and looked after me. I feel like I belong here because there are other children with brown skin like me, and lots of different religions. I’m proud to be a Muslim in Manchester, I’m not worried now.

What was the hardest thing about starting a new school in a new country?

I found the work really hard because I couldn't understand it!

What was the first word that you learnt in English?

I remember learning the phrase "I am" and also the word "learning."

How different is the UK to your home country?

Spain was very expensive, Manchester is cheaper! It rains more in Manchester. In Manchester there are a lot of Muslim shops – you can get halal food really easily here. In Spain we had to drive for five miles in the car just to find a halal restaurant but here it is much easier.



What is your favourite thing about living in the UK?



- This school
- The shops
- Halal school dinners
- Manchester has great libraries
- The parks are brilliant here

What do you miss most about the country that you came from?

- I miss my family in Pakistan, and I miss our house in Pakistan- it had a big garden
- The food in Pakistan
- I don't miss anything about Spain

