



Home Office

Child visitors

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules

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Child visitors

About this guidance

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>Immigration Rules, paragraphs 46A – 46F</p> <p>This guidance tells you how to consider applications from a child visitor under paragraphs 46A-46F of the Immigration Rules. See related link.</p> <p>There are no provisions within the Immigration Rules to grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indefinite leave to remain (settlement) in any of the visitor categories.• Entry to the UK as a dependant of a visitor. A dependant or family member will need to qualify in their own right in one of the visitor categories. <p>Changes to this guidance – This page tells you what has changed since the previous version of this guidance.</p> <p>Contact – This page tells you who to contact for help if your senior caseworker or line manager can't answer your question.</p> <p>Information owner – This page tell you about this version of the guidance and who owns it.</p> <p>Safeguard and promote child welfare -This page explains your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and tells you where to find out more information.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Changes to this guidance</p> <p>Contacts</p> <p>information owner</p> <p>Related Links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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Key facts: Child visitors

This page lists the key facts on child visitors.

Category: Child visitors	
Eligibility requirements	<p>Immigration Rules paragraph 46A state the applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit.• Be under the age of 18.• Maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants without using public funds.• Meet the cost of the return or onward journey.• Demonstrate that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel, reception and care in the UK.• Have a parent or guardian in their home country or the country where they normally live who is responsible for their care. They must confirm they consent to the arrangements for the applicant's travel, reception and care in the UK. <p>The applicant can enter the UK as a child visitor to undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• business visitor activities• sports visitor activities• entertainer visitor activities. <p>The applicant must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits• take employment• produce goods or provide services within the UK• intend to marry or form a civil partnership• intend to give notice of a marriage or civil partnership• intend to receive private medical treatment• be in transit to a country outside the common travel area. <p>If the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is a visa national, they must either:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ hold a valid UK entry clearance for entry as an accompanied child visitor and be travelling in the company of the adult identified on the entry clearance, who is on the same occasion being admitted to the UK, or○ hold a valid UK entry clearance for entry as an unaccompanied child visitor.• Has been accepted for a course of study, this must be

	<p>provided by an institution which is outside the maintained sector and is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The holder of a sponsor licence for Tier 4 of the points-based-system (PBS). ○ The holder of valid accreditation from Accreditation UK; the Accreditation Body for Language Services (ABLS), the British Accreditation Council (BAC), or the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC). ○ Holds a valid and satisfactory full institutional inspection, review or audit by one of the following bodies. The Bridge Schools Inspectorate, the Education and Training Inspectorate, Estyn, Education Scotland, the Independent Schools Inspectorate, Office for Standards in Education, the Schools Inspection Service, or the Education and Training Inspectorate Northern Ireland. <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carry out an exchange or educational visit only. This must be provided by a school in the maintained sector, a non-maintained special school, an independent non fee-paying or an independent fee-paying school.
Application forms	<p>Application made outside UK - VAF1A Extension (within UK) – FLR (O) Indefinite leave to remain – not applicable</p> <p>For more information, see Home Office general visitors Fees for Home Office services</p>
Cost of application:	Fees for Home Office services
Entry clearance mandatory?	Only for visa nationals and those applying to stay more than 6 months in the UK.
Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?	<p>Yes</p> <p>No for non visa national child seeking leave to enter at port for up to six months</p>
Code of leave to enter granted	Code 5N or Code 3
Entry clearance endorsements	<p>C:CHILD VISITOR: ACCOMPANIED: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3: (add parent / guardian name and passport number)</p> <p>C:VISIT CHILD UNACCOMPANIED:6 MONTHS CODE 3</p>
Conditions of leave to enter	No work or recourse to public funds.
How long is leave to enter normally granted for?	Six months or 12 months if accompanying an academic visitor.
Are dependants allowed?	No, dependants must qualify as a visitor in their own right.
Work and study allowed?	<p>No employment allowed.</p> <p>Study allowed, subject to limitations. See:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child studying in UK • Exchange or educational visits
Switching into this category allowed?	No

Does this category lead to settlement (indefinite leave to remain)?	No
Is knowledge of language and life required?	No
CID case type	Visitor (Special) - LTR
Immigration Rules paragraphs	Paragraphs 46A –46F.

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Changes to this guidance

[About this guidance](#)

[Key facts](#)

[Entry or extension requirements](#)

[Granting or refusing](#)

This page lists the changes to the child visitor guidance, with the most recent at the top.

Date of change	Details of change
28 March 2014	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes.
27 September 2013	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key facts:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ heading 'Eligibility requirements', fifth bullet point amended○ sixth bullet point removed○ heading 'Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?', additional information for non-visa nationals○ heading 'Code of leave to enter granted', added 'Code 5N'• Entry or extension requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ sub-heading 'Requirements for a grant of leave under the Immigration Rules', fifth bullet point amended and sixth bullet point removed○ sub-heading 'Requirements for an extension of leave under the Immigration Rules', fifth bullet point amended and sixth bullet point removed• Reception and care:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ sixth paragraph rewritten○ sub-heading 'Home Office officers at ports of entry' renamed 'Border Force officers at ports of entry', and rewritten

Related links

See also

[Contacts](#)

[Information owner](#)

Links to staff intranet removed

External links

[Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z](#)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accompanied visa nationals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sub-heading 'Home Office officers at ports of entry' renamed 'Border Force officers at ports of entry' Unaccompanied visa nationals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> final paragraph removed Grant or refuse entry at UK port: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sub-heading 'Granting leave to enter', second bullet point rewritten sub-heading 'Refusing leave to enter', references to Immigration Rules paragraphs amended to reflect changes Minor housekeeping changes. 	
		For previous changes you will need to access the archived guidance. See related link: Child visitor – Archive .	

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Entry or extension requirements

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This section explains the requirements a person must meet in order to obtain either leave to enter or an extension of stay in the UK as a child visitor.</p> <p>Visa nationals and those accompanying an academic visitor applying to stay longer than six months will require entry clearance. For a list of visa nationals, see related link: Immigration Rules: Appendix 1.</p> <p>When considering an application you must check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the application is valid• the applicant's passport or travel document is genuine and valid• the applicant meets the requirements of the category• there are no general grounds for refusal. <p>For more information, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specified application forms and procedures• Passports and travel documents• General grounds for refusal. <p>Requirements for a grant of leave under the Immigration Rules</p> <p>Under paragraph 46A of the Immigration Rules, a child visitor must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit.• Be under the age of 18.• Maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants adequately:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ out of resources available to them without recourse to public funds or taking employment, or○ be maintained and/or accommodated by relatives or friends who can prove they are able and intend to do so, and are legally present in the UK, or will be at the time of	<p>In this section</p> <p>Reception and care</p> <p>Responsibility for care in home country</p> <p>Private foster care</p> <p>Private foster care - legislation</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <p>Child studying in UK</p> <p>Exchange or educational visits</p> <p>Definition of schools</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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	<p>their visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the cost of the return or onward journey. • Demonstrate that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel, reception and care in the UK • Have a parent or guardian in their home country or the country where they normally live who is responsible for their care. They must confirm they consent to the arrangements for the applicant's travel, reception and care in the UK. <p>The applicant can enter the UK as a child visitor to undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business visitor activities • sport visitor activities • entertainer visitor activities. <p>The applicant must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits • intend to take employment • intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK • intend to marry or form a civil partnership • intend to give notice of a marriage or civil partnership • intend to receive private medical treatment • be in transit to a country outside the common travel area. <p>If the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a visa national, they must either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ hold a valid UK entry clearance for entry as an accompanied child visitor and be travelling in the company of the adult identified on the entry clearance, who is on the same occasion being admitted to the UK, or ○ hold a valid UK entry clearance for entry as an unaccompanied child visitor. • Has been accepted for a course of study, this must be provided by an institution which is outside the maintained sector and is: 	<p>Immigration Rules: Appendix 1</p>
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- The holder of a sponsor licence for Tier 4 of the points-based-system (PBS)
- The holder of valid accreditation from, Accreditation UK, the Accreditation Body for Language Services (ABLS), the British Accreditation Council (BAC), or the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC).
- Holds a valid and satisfactory full institutional inspection, review or audit by one of the following bodies. The Bridge Schools Inspectorate, the Education and Training Inspectorate, Estyn, Education Scotland, the Independent Schools Inspectorate, Office for Standards in Education, the Schools Inspection Service, or the Education and Training Inspectorate Northern Ireland.
- Carry out an exchange or educational visit only. This must be provided by a school in the maintained sector, a non-maintained special school, an independent non fee-paying or an independent fee-paying school, as described in guidance published by the Home Office.

Requirements for an extension of leave under the Immigration Rules

Under paragraph 46D of the Immigration Rules, a child visitor must:

- Leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit.
- Be under the age of 18.
- Maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants without using public funds.
- Meet the cost of the return or onward journey.
- Demonstrate that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel, reception and care in the UK.
- Have a parent or guardian in their home country or the country where they normally live who is responsible for their care and who confirms that they consent to the arrangements for the applicant's travel, reception and care in the UK.
- Have, or been last granted, entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain as a child visitor.

The applicant can extend their leave in the UK as a child visitor to undertake:

- business visitor activities
- sport visitor activities

- entertainer visitor activities.

The applicant must not:

- Intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits
- Intend to take employment.
- Intend to take a course of study. Permission to study is limited to initial entry to bring the policy in line with student visitors.
- Intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK.
- Intend to marry or form a civil partnership.
- Intend to give notice of a marriage or civil partnership.
- Intend to receive private medical treatment.
- Be in transit to a country outside the common travel area.
- Have already, or as a result of an extension of stay spent, more than six months in total in the UK, or not more than 12 months if they are accompanying an academic visitor.
- Be in breach of immigration laws except for any period of overstaying:
 - for 28 days or less which will be disregarded, or
 - if the application was submitted before 9 July 2012.

For more information, see related link: [Applications from overstayers \(non family routes\)](#).

Child visitors

Reception and care

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for reception and care of a child visitor.</p> <p>The applicant must demonstrate that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel to, arrival and care in the UK. If a foster carer or relative, who is not a parent or guardian, has responsibility for their care, the applicant must provide a letter of consent from their parent(s) or legal guardian regarding arrangements for their travel to, reception and care while in the UK which must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the name and date of birth of the intended foster carer• address where the applicant will be living• relationship of foster carer to the applicant• authority from parent(s) or legal guardian allowing the foster carer to care for the applicant during their stay in the UK• a letter from the school to include details of the foster care arrangements, and• confirming they have or will notify the local authority, including the reply from the local authority if they have one. <p>Private foster care arrangements must be notified to the relevant local authority by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the parents and / or other carer of the child visitor• other parties to the arrangement, for example the education provider, or• the Home Office if it has not already been done. <p>Unless there is cause for concern, the evidence can be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• they are accompanied by a parent, or parents• suitable arrangements for private foster care exist, as specified above. <p>For further information on Home Office requirements on foster care, see related links:</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Responsibility for care in home country</p> <p>Private foster care</p> <p>Private foster care - legislation</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <p>Child studying in UK</p> <p>Exchange or educational visits</p> <p>Definition of schools</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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- Private foster care
- Private foster care – legislation.

The Home Office has a statutory duty of care towards children under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, and it is mandatory for UK-based staff to complete the e-learning course on this duty. For more information, see related link: Safeguard and promote child welfare.

You must make every reasonable effort to make sure the documents presented to you are genuine.

Entry clearance officers

You must enter the following details on PROVISIO to show this requirement has been met:

- name, address and landline telephone number of the parent or carer in the child's home country
- the host in the UK
- the person accompanying the child.

If details are missing, unclear or other factors raise concerns about the child's welfare, you must make further enquiries to confirm the identity and residence of the host and make sure the child is expected.

If you remain concerned about the child's welfare in the UK, you must refuse the application.

Border Force officers at ports of entry

Under the section 55 duty, if you have any concerns about a child's welfare you must contact your local authority children's services department and/or the police where appropriate. Children's Services will advise on the suitability of the sponsor and will take the child into their care, if they agree that the sponsor is unsuitable or if there is no responsible sponsor.

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Responsibility for care in home country

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about the need for responsibility for care of a child visitor in their own country.</p> <p>In order to gain entry to the UK, a child visitor must show evidence that they have a parent or guardian who is responsible for their care in their home country or in the country where they normally live. The parent or guardian must consent to the arrangements for the child's travel, reception and care in the UK.</p> <p>In the majority of cases where an application is made for entry clearance abroad, the parent or guardian will be the person making the application on behalf of the child and the application will present no difficulty.</p> <p>If the application is not made by the parent or guardian, and there are no other factors which give cause for concern, a letter from the parent or guardian confirming their relationship to the child and consenting to the child's application will be sufficient to establish that this requirement has been met.</p> <p>If the applicant's parents are divorced, the consent must come from the parent who holds legal custody or sole responsibility.</p> <p>If there is nothing from the parent or guardian to support the application and no reasonable explanation why this is the case, the application must be refused.</p> <p>If you have any concerns relating to child trafficking you must consult the guidance on human trafficking, see related link.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Reception and care</p> <p>Private foster care</p> <p>Private foster care - legislation</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <p>Child studying in UK</p> <p>Exchange or educational visits</p> <p>Definition of schools</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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Private foster care

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about arrangements that must be in place for child visitors in private foster care.</p> <p>You are advised to read the legislation. See related link: Private foster care – legislation.</p> <p>A child visitor is considered to be in private foster care when they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• under 16 years old or under 18 years old for those who have a disability• being cared for on a full-time basis for more than 28 days, and• not being cared for by parents or close relatives. <p>The following must notify the local authority when a private foster care arrangement is made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• parent(s) and/or other carers• other parties to the arrangement, for example, the education provider. <p>If this has not been done the Home Office must notify the local authority where the child will be staying.</p> <p>A child visitor is not in private foster care when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a close relative, parent or legal guardian is looking after them, or• the child is part of a group travelling and staying together and accompanied by an adult, for example, a school group. <p>Application made by parent or guardian Unless you have cause for concern, you do not need to make detailed enquiries into the acceptability of adults who are to accompany the child.</p> <p>Application not made by parent or guardian Unless the application is made by a social worker who holds parental rights and cares for</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Reception and care</p> <p>Responsibility for care in home country</p> <p>Private foster care - legislation</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <p>Child studying in UK</p> <p>Exchange or educational visits</p> <p>Definition of schools</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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	<p>the child, you must make enquiries about the identities of accompanying adults and record their details as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names and passport number. This is necessary for the child's visa. • Address in the home country. • Any address in the UK or abroad. • Employment details. • Their relationship to the child, their parent or guardian and their host in the UK. <p>You will need to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter of consent from the parent(s) or the legal guardian regarding the arrangements for the child's travel, reception and care while in the UK. This letter must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ name of the intended foster carer ○ date of birth of the intended foster carer ○ address where child will be living ○ relationship of foster carer to child ○ authority from parent(s) or legal guardian for the foster carer to care for the child during their stay in the UK. • A letter from the school to include details of the foster care arrangement and confirming they have or will notify the local authority and including the reply from the authority if they have one. <p>You must make every reasonable effort to check these documents are genuine.</p>	
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Private foster care - legislation

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about the UK legislation that applies to private foster care for child visitors.</p> <p>Private fostering is covered by the following legislation in the UK:</p> <p>England and Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part IX of the Children Act 1989.• The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005. <p>Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster Children (Scotland) Act 1984.• Foster Children (Private Fostering) Regulations 1985. These regulations require that parents including a guardian or relative:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ notify the local authority of arrangements to be made for the fostering of their children privately under the 1984 Act (regulation 3)○ make provision for the local authority to investigate the suitability of such private fostering arrangements in the interests of the child (regulations 4 to 6) and for the visiting of such foster children by the local authority (regulation 7).• Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001, where the Care Commission is responsible for the regulation of the functions of local authorities regarding private foster care arrangements. <p>Northern Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - Articles 106/107.• Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996. These regulations are equivalent those in England. Health and social care trusts must be notified of private foster care arrangements lasting more than 28 days in relation to	<p>In this section</p> <p>Reception and care</p> <p>Responsibility for care in home country</p> <p>Private foster care</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <p>Child studying in UK</p> <p>Exchange or educational visits</p> <p>Definition of schools</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p> <p>Part IX of the Children Act 1989</p> <p>Home Office website - guidance for child visitors</p>
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	<p>children under 16 years old (or under 18 if they have a disability).</p> <p>For more information on the acts and regulations, see related links.</p>	<p><u>The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005</u></p> <p><u>Foster Children (Scotland) Act 1984</u></p> <p><u>The Foster Children (Private Fostering) (Scotland) Regulations 1985</u></p> <p><u>Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001</u></p> <p><u>The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995</u></p> <p><u>The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996</u></p>
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Visa nationals

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This section tells you about the requirements for child visitors who are visa nationals.</p> <p>A child visitor who is a visa national needs to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• hold a valid UK entry clearance for entry as an accompanied child visitor who is travelling in the company of the adult identified on the entry clearance, both seeking entry to the UK at the same time, or• hold a valid UK entry clearance for entry to the UK as an unaccompanied child visitor. <p>See related links to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accompanied visa nationals• Unaccompanied visa nationals.	<p>In this section</p> <p>Accompanied visa nationals</p> <p>Unaccompanied visa nationals</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Reception and care</p> <p>Responsibility for care in home country</p> <p>Private foster care</p> <p>Private foster care - legislation</p> <p>Child studying in UK</p> <p>Exchange or educational visits</p> <p>Definition of schools</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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Accompanied visa nationals

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for accompanied child visitors.</p> <p>If a child is travelling in the company of an adult, they must hold a visa which identifies the adult they are coming to the UK with. The identification used is the adult's passport number, initial and surname, which is included on the child's visa vignette.</p> <p>If the child intends to travel with two adults one after another during the validity of the visa, for example, the child may arrive with one parent and then travel for a day trip to France with the other, each of the adult's passport numbers must be entered on the vignette. The passport numbers are sufficient as there is not enough space on the vignette to allow for the names of two people as well as the passport numbers.</p> <p>The endorsement must read 'only valid if acc. by [passport number of first adult], or [passport number of second adult]'.</p> <p>The child's visa will only be valid if they are accompanied by this identified adult.</p> <p>A child who seeks to enter the UK in the company of an adult other than the person identified on their visa must be refused.</p> <p>Border Force officers at port of entry</p> <p>If you have concerns over the identity of the accompanying adult, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• check the passport number, initial and surname in the passport of the accompanying adult against the details recorded for the child's visa on the CRS computer record• advise the post that issued the visa, so that they may make a note against the record, in case subsequent application(s) are made by the same person. <p>In cases where the accompanying adult has travelled with the child, but remains airside and does not accompany the child into the UK, the terms of the visa will not be met. Further enquiries must be made of the child and of the accompanying adult, if the latter can be</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Unaccompanied visa nationals</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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	<p>found. In such cases it is appropriate to refuse the child entry.</p> <p>If the accompanying adult has legitimately obtained a replacement passport since the issue of the child's visa, the old cancelled passport is acceptable as evidence of identity to allow the child's entry.</p> <p>If the original passport has been retained by the issuing authority, the new passport is acceptable if it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gives the original passport number in full • contains an official endorsement confirming it replaces the previous passport. <p>Photocopies of the original passport are not, on their own, reliable evidence of identity.</p>	
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Unaccompanied visa nationals

About this guidance	This page tells you about the requirements unaccompanied child visitors must meet.	In this section
Key facts	You must pay particular attention to applications and to the circumstances of a child coming to the UK on their own.	Accompanied visa nationals
Entry or extension requirements	A child with an 'unaccompanied child visitor' visa may travel with or without an accompanying adult. For example, they may have obtained a multi-entry visa and be unable to advise in advance who they will travel with on subsequent trips to the UK.	External links
Granting or refusing		Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z

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Child studying in the UK

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you when a person admitted into the UK as a child visitor can study.</p> <p>Please note there is a difference between this route and exchange or educational visits.</p> <p>Institutions for study courses or activities These must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• hold a sponsor licence for Tier 4 of the points-based system (PBS)• hold a valid accreditation from a Home Office approved accreditation body, or• have been inspected by one of the following bodies:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the Bridge Schools Inspectorate○ Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)○ Education Scotland○ Estyn (Wales)○ Education and Training Inspectorate (Northern Ireland) (ETINI)○ Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) UK wide. <p>For more information on the organisations listed above, see related links.</p> <p>The institution must demonstrate it has appropriate measures in place for safeguarding children and these must comply with any regulation relevant to the study course or programme. For example, they may provide the child visitor with a letter confirming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• length and content of the course• confirmation they meet the relevant regulations in relation to safeguarding children, for example, Criminal Record Bureau checks and that the regulatory body confirms they are met. <p>Activity based programmes Home Office accreditation is not required for activity based programmes. Some incidental tuition, for example, in English language, is allowed but it must be no more than a minor part</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Reception and care</p> <p>Responsibility for care in home country</p> <p>Private foster care</p> <p>Private foster care - legislation</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <p>Exchange or educational visits</p> <p>Definition of schools</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p> <p>PBS licensed sponsors</p>
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	<p>of the programme.</p> <p>Below are some examples of programmes that qualify as activity based:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight week football summer school with a focus on football coaching or practice with some visits to places of interest and football matches. Also one or two hours a week of informal English language training. • Two week folk dancing programme with a focus on practical dancing skills, attending some relevant exhibitions and shows. Also one or two hours a week of studying relevant history of folk dancing. • Four week mountaineering programme with a focus on climbing and associated social events, with one or two hours a week of informal English language training. <p>Below are some examples of programmes not qualifying as activity based:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 week English language course with mornings in the classroom and afternoons on cultural visits. • Six week archaeology course mainly in the classroom, with visits to archaeological sites. • Two week study programme on British history and culture, mainly in the classroom, with some visits to places of interest. 	<p>Bridge School Inspectorate</p> <p>Ofsted</p> <p>Education Scotland</p> <p>Estyn (Wales)</p> <p>ETINI</p> <p>ISI</p>
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Child visitors

Exchange or educational visits

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for a person to be admitted into the UK as a child visitor for an exchange or educational visit.</p> <p>A child visitor can come to the UK for an exchange or educational visit for a maximum of six months. This is on the condition that the visit is being provided by one of the following types of school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a maintained state sector school• a non-maintained special school• an independent non fee-paying school• an independent fee-paying school. <p>For further information on the Home Office's definitions of schools, see related link: Definition of schools.</p> <p>The Home Office considers exchanges and educational visits to be mainly about broadening horizons and deepening intercultural understanding.</p> <p>The precise nature of the visit is for the school to decide. Short visits are likely to involve the young person attending some school lessons, but they will not be expected to do any homework. There may be an extensive programme of cultural visits organised for the visitors, for example, day trips or attending sporting events. The balance of activities is likely to change for longer visits with the young person expected to attend more lessons and do homework. The school's expectations of those on an exchange visit are not likely to be the same as for its own students.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Reception and care</p> <p>Responsibility for care in home country</p> <p>Private foster care</p> <p>Private foster care - legislation</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <p>Child studying in UK</p> <p>Definition of schools</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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Child visitors

Definition of schools

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about the types of school which the Home Office considers suitable for providing exchange or educational visits for child visitors.</p> <p>If you are concerned that the school where the exchange is being made is not a genuine institution, for example, it is not offering education to a standard required by relevant education authorities, you can check the relevant websites.</p> <p>England and Wales – local authority maintained schools The schools will be one of the following types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundation school• Community school• Voluntary controlled school• Voluntary aided school• Nursery school• Special school. <p>England and Wales - independent fee paying schools These institutions will display the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A governing body is responsible for the day to day running of the school.• They are funded by fees paid by parents and charitable trust funds.• The head teacher employs the staff, with backing from the governing body.• The head teacher or the governing body may buy in and administer support services.• Pupils do not have to follow the national curriculum.• Admissions policy is determined and administered by head teacher and governing body. <p>England and Wales - independent non fee paying school - academy These institutions will display the following characteristics:</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Reception and care</p> <p>Responsibility for care in home country</p> <p>Private foster care</p> <p>Private foster care - legislation</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <p>Child studying in UK</p> <p>Exchange or educational visits</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p> <p>Schools: England/Wales</p> <p>Schools: Scotland (spreadsheet)</p> <p>Schools: Scotland</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independently managed for all abilities. • Set up in disadvantaged areas by sponsors from business, charities or voluntary groups in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) and local education authorities. • DfE funds the school's running costs. • The governing body employs the staff. • Pupils do not have to follow the National Curriculum. <p>England and Wales - independent non fee paying school - city technology college (CTC)</p> <p>There are only a limited number of CTCs. They are independent non-fee paying schools situated in urban areas, with the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are run in accordance with an agreement between the company that owns it and the DfE. • DfE and commercial sponsors fund the college. • The governing body employs the staff. • The governing body buys in and administers the support services. • Pupils follow a curriculum that is similar to the national curriculum, with particular emphasis on technology and practical skills. • The admissions policy is determined and administered by the governing body. <p>England and Wales - independent non fee paying school - non-maintained special school</p> <p>Some schools for pupils with special educational needs are independently run. A local authority may pay for a pupil to attend one of these schools if it best meets their individual needs.</p> <p>Scotland</p> <p>There are three categories of school which exist in Scotland under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, which qualify as schools to which exchange and educational visits may be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly funded schools. These are state-maintained schools, funded by a local 	Schools: N. Ireland
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authority.

- Grant-aided schools. These are funded directly from the Scottish Government. These are mainly non fee-paying special schools.
- Independent fee-paying schools.

Northern Ireland - state maintained schools – controlled

These institutions will display the following characteristics:

- They are managed and funded by the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) through a school board of governors.
- They are 100 per cent funded.
- Under the Review of Public Administration, the new Education Skills Authority will take over responsibility from the ELBs.
- Within the controlled sector there is a small but growing number of controlled integrated schools.

Northern Ireland - state maintained schools - voluntary maintained

These institutions will display the following characteristics:

- Managed by boards of governors consisting of members nominated by trustees; representatives of parents, teachers and ELBs.
- Vary in the rates of capital grant to which they are entitled, according to the management structures they have adopted. Majority entitled to capital grants at 100%.
- Running costs funded through ELBs.
- Capital building works funded by the Department of Education.
- Under the Review of Public Administration, the new Education Skills Authority will take over responsibility from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

Northern Ireland - state maintained schools - voluntary (non-maintained)

These institutions will display the following characteristics:

- Mainly voluntary grammar schools, managed by boards of governors.
- Boards of governors are constituted in line with each school's scheme of management. These are usually representatives of foundation governors, parents and teachers and,

	<p>in most cases, the Department of Education or ELBs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vary in the rates of capital grant to which they are entitled, according to the management structures they have adopted. Majority entitled to capital grants at 100 per cent. • Funded directly by the department but responsibility for funding will transfer from the department under the Review of Public Administration. <p>Northern Ireland - state maintained schools - grant-maintained integrated schools These institutions will display the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent years a number of these have been established at primary level and post-primary levels. • Currently funded directly by the Department of Education. Responsibility for funding will transfer from the department under the Review of Public Administration. <p>Northern Ireland - independent fee-paying schools These institutions will display the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are only a small number of these in Northern Ireland. • They are not funded by the department, but include special schools. <p>There are no independent non fee-paying schools or non-maintained special schools in Northern Ireland that qualify under paragraph 46A (viii) of the Immigration Rules.</p>	
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Child visitors

Granting or refusing

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This section tells you about granting or refusing leave to enter or an extension in the child visitor category.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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Child visitors

Grant or refuse entry clearance

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about granting or refusing an application for entry clearance in the child visitor category.</p> <p>Grant entry clearance You can grant entry clearance if the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• meets all the requirements of paragraph 46B of the Immigration Rules, and• none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply. <p>Length of leave Six months as standard. 12 months can be granted if they are accompanying an academic visitor.</p> <p>C:CHILD VISITOR: ACCOMPANIED: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3: (add parent / guardian name and passport number)</p> <p>C:VISIT CHILD UNACCOMPANIED:6 MONTHS CODE 3</p> <p>The endorsement must be valid from the date the applicant intends to travel to the UK.</p> <p>Refusing entry clearance You must refuse entry clearance under paragraph 46C if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46B, or• any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply.	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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Child visitors

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you about granting or refusing an application for leave to enter at a UK port in the child visitor category.</p> <p>Granting leave to enter Before you grant leave to enter, you must be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has valid entry clearance if applicable• for holders of entry clearance, that there are no reasons to believe:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the applicant gave false information to obtain the entry clearance○ that circumstances have changed since it was issued, or○ the purpose of entry is different from that for which the entry clearance was issued• none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 or 321 of the Immigration Rules apply. <p>Non visa nationals If you are satisfied that the person meets all the requirements you can grant leave to enter for up to six months with employment prohibited using code 5N. Use code 3 where there are doubts about the person but not enough evidence to refuse leave to enter.</p> <p>Visa nationals If you are satisfied that the person meets all the requirements, endorse the entry clearance with an open date stamp and record on the landing card with the code VPC.</p> <p>Length of leave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For six months• 12 months if they are accompanying an academic visitor. <p>Refusing leave to enter You must refuse leave to enter as a child visitor if:</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a visa national does not have an entry clearance • the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46A of the Immigration Rules, or • any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 or 321 apply. <p>For more information on general grounds for refusal, see related link.</p>	
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Child visitors

Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about granting or refusing an application for an extension in the child visitor category.</p> <p>Grant extension</p> <p>Before you grant an extension, you must be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph 46D of the Immigration Rules, and• none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 322 to 324 applies. <p>A child visitor granted less than six months' leave when they entered the UK can be granted an extension of stay to bring their total stay up to six months, or 12 months if accompanying an academic visitor as a child visitor.</p> <p>If the applicant was granted less than the maximum six months on entry (12 months for those accompanying academic visitors), you make enquiries to find out why before you grant an extension.</p> <p>For more information on the above, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry or extension requirements• General grounds for refusal• Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40 – 56Z <p>Refuse extension</p> <p>You refuse an extension of stay as a visitor if the applicant does not meet all of the requirements of the relevant paragraphs of the Immigration Rules. An application for an extension of stay beyond six months as a child visitor, or 12 months if accompanying an academic visitor as a child visitor, must be refused under paragraph 46F.</p> <p>If you are considering refusing an extension of stay on grounds that are not specific to</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z</p> <p>Immigration Rules - paragraph 320-324</p>
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	visitors, you must refer to the following guidance using the related links: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General grounds for refusal• Immigration Rules - paragraph 320-324.	
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Child visitors

Contact

About this guidance Key facts Entry or extension requirements Granting or refusing	<p>This page tells you who to contact for more help with a specific case in the child visitor category.</p> <p>If you have read paragraphs 40-56M (visitors) of the Immigration Rules as well as this guidance and still need more help with this category, you must first ask your senior caseworker or line manager.</p> <p>If the question cannot be answered at that level, you may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email: study and visit operational policy team, for guidance on policy, see related link.• For entry clearance officers email International group decision quality ECO support team, see related link: Email: ECO support.• For Border Force officers: email BF OAS enquiries, see related link. <p>Changes to this guidance can only be made by the modernised guidance team (MGT). If you think the policy content needs amending you must contact the study and visit operational policy team, who will commission the MGT to update the guidance, if appropriate.</p> <p>The MGT will accept direct feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these using the link: Email: Modernised guidance team.</p>	Related Links Changes to this guidance Information owner External links Links to staff intranet removed Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z
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Child visitors

Information owner

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This page provides the details of the information owners for guidance relating to child visitors.

Version	9.0
Valid from date	28 March 2014
Policy owner	Study and visit operational policy team
Cleared by director	Sonia Dower
Director's role	Director, operational policy and rules
Clearance date	28 May 2013
This version approved for publication by	Jan Hunter
Approver's role	Acting grade 7, modernised guidance team.
Approval date	28 March 2014

Changes to this guidance can only be made by the modernised guidance team (MGT). If you think the policy content needs amending you must contact the study and visit operational policy team, who will ask the modernised guidance team to update the guidance.

The MGT accept feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these using the link: Email: Modernised guidance team.

Related links

[Changes to this guidance](#)

[Contacts](#)

External links

[Immigration Rules - paragraphs 40-56Z](#)

Links to staff intranet removed