Applications for families arriving from abroad, including from the EU, from 1 January 2021

In most cases, children arriving from overseas have the right to attend schools in England. It is the responsibility of parents to check that their children have a right, under their visa entry conditions, to study at a school before submitting an application.

If you have recently arrived from abroad, we recommend that you check that you have a *right of abode* or that the conditions of their immigration status otherwise permit you to access a state-funded school.

Children aged under 18 are classed as dependant children if they are the children of foreign nationals who have settled status in the UK, or who are entering the UK on a *work visa* or *Student visa*, or who are part of a family entering or residing in the UK under the *immigration route for British National (Overseas) citizens and their dependants*. These children are entitled to enter the country with their family, or to join their family and study at a state-funded or independent school once in the UK.

Unaccompanied children may also enter the UK to access a school. To comply with their visa terms, unaccompanied foreign national children, and young people (including such EEA nationals entering the UK after 31 December 2020) who are entering on a *Child Student visa* or *Student visa* must, when accessing education in England, study at the independent school, sixth form college or further education college which is sponsoring them.

Foreign nationals cannot use the 6-month Standard Visitor visa, or 11-month Short-term Study (English language) visa, to enter the UK to enrol as a pupil at a school. Find out what these visas can be used for on the *Standard Visitor visa* page.

Find out more about *visas and immigration* and the *EU Settlement Scheme* for EEA and Swiss citizens. Irish citizens' right to live in the UK will not change. Irish citizens do not need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme, but their family members, who are not Irish or UK citizens, will need to apply.

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