



VISA INFORMATION FOR NEW STARTERS



Pupils with a UK passport do not require a visa. All other pupils joining for more than six months do need a visa. Non-UK passport holders joining for less than six months are sent a comfort letter which informs immigration that they are joining Leweston as a full-time student. They must travel with this letter. Leweston is a registered Student and Child Student Sponsor, licensed by UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI).

We strongly advise you to consult UKVI's Child Student Visa guidance which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa> prior to submitting any visa application.

Once an international student completes the school's Acceptance Form and Medical Folder Leweston will apply for a reference number called a confirmation of acceptance for studies or CAS. The CAS is required for the visa application and indicates that Leweston will be the student's sponsor in the UK for the academic course being followed. The school will provide a pre-CAS questionnaire which must be completed before the application is made. When the school has applied for the CAS we will send you, and your agent if relevant, a formal confirmation letter, please keep this safe as it contains information you will need to complete your visa application. **Parents must ensure their child has a valid visa before they start at Leweston and every time they enter the UK. Their passport must be valid for the duration of their stay.**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for a Child Student Visa are that you have:

1. An unconditional offer of a place on a course at an independent school. The CAS reference number provides evidence of this.
2. Be able to show you'll have access to enough money to support you in the UK and pay for your course. School fees include both course fees and living costs. You must be able to show you are able to meet the remaining school fees as stated on the CAS. If you have already paid your child's fees for the full year, the information contained in the CAS will provide enough evidence for the application. For full guidance of financial requirements visit <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa/money>.
3. Have the parental or legal guardian consent to study in the UK – all parents or legal guardians must complete the Parental Consent Letter before the CAS is issued.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A VISA

1. Prepare your supporting documents
2. Apply on <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply> - you must apply no later than six months after the date of the issue of the CAS but no earlier than six months before the course start date given on the CAS. You can set the arrival date for the visa up to one month before the start of the school year and we strongly recommend you do this as failure to arrive within the designated arrival window of the visa will result in it not being valid at the start date.
3. Even though the form is completed online you will need to print it out and your child will need to sign it if they are old enough to do so. Both parents or legal guardians will also need to sign and date the form. The online system will tell you how and where to send the hardcopy of the application form and the necessary supporting documentation.
4. Choose your application service - standard or priority (see <https://www.gov.uk/faster-decision-visa-settlement/applying-outside-the-uk>)
5. As part of the application you will be directed to make an appointment at an appropriate visa application centre or visa section so that your child's biometric data can be obtained.
6. Provide your identity - this will depend on where you are from and what passport your child has (see <https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/prove-your-identity>)



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION

- Confirmation of acceptance of studies (CAS) number from the school
- Valid passport/travel document
- Proof of finances
- Proof of parental or guardian consent
- Proof of relationship to parent or guardian

You may also need:

- TB test certificate
- ATAS certificate

Find out more: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide>

DOCUMENTS THAT MUST BE SENT TO LEWESTON

In order to comply with visa regulations the school requires the following before a pupil arrives:

- Copy of the pupil's passport
- Report from pupil's current school
- Parents' consent for the pupil to study at Leweston
- Copy of parents' passports and pupil's birth certificates
- Share code for electronic status
- Travel details
- Signed permission to hold the pupil's passport
- Signed guardian agreement
- Financial evidence (if applicable)
- TB certificate (if applicable)

A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

There are two possibilities for a successful application:

1. If your child has had their biometrics taken (which is normally the case outside the EU) they will be issued with a UK entry clearance vignette in their passport and, most importantly, a BRP (Biometric Residence Permit). The BRP itself is collected after the student arrives in the UK. You must arrange for this BRP card to be delivered to Leweston by providing the schools ACL (Alternative Collection Location) code: **35C762**. This BRP card is proof of the holder's right to study in the UK. It is a very important form of identification, and it must be shown at borders together with the passport when travelling from, and when returning to, the UK.
2. If your child was asked to use the "UK Immigration: ID check" app to scan their passport (which is normally the case inside the EU) they will get a digital immigration status which they can view and prove online. In order to do this, they will need their passport number, date of birth and access to the mobile phone number or email address that were used on the application, so that a code for logging in can be sent to them. EU pupils given a digital immigration status should not enter the UK for the purpose of starting at Leweston until they have received this digital Child Student status.

As soon as you have received a decision from UKVI about your application, please let the Admissions office know and provide a copy of the Home Office decision letter / email. We will also require a copy of the visa vignette or Share Code so that we can check and download your child's visa status prior to arrival.

HEALTHCARE

International students are required to pay an immigration health surcharge as part of their visa application. This entitles them to access the NHS in the UK at no additional cost. Students may need to pay for dental and optical treatment as well as medical prescriptions. There is a charge of £17 per term for registration with the school doctors.

GUARDIANS

Everyone whose parents live abroad must have a guardian in this country unless they are a pupil for a very short period of time. The guardian is someone who a pupil can go to at short notice if they are ill; need to catch early or late flights or spend holidays with if they are not going home. Details of your chosen guardian must be shared with Admissions before arrival on the Guardian agreement.