



### Message from British Embassy, Berlin – visas for school groups visiting the UK

This is a message for all teachers and parents preparing for or considering a school visit to the UK.

The British Embassy in Berlin wants as many school groups from Germany as possible to be able to organise successful visits to the UK. School trips and exchanges are a vital way to promote mutual understanding and bring our countries closer together. It is important, however, that those organising such trips pay attention to the practicalities. We hope the following information is useful for teachers and parents with an interest in bringing their children to the UK.

German school children can visit the UK as tourists, on a school trip or as part of a school exchange without a visa for up to 6 months. They should ensure they have a passport valid for the duration of their trip. There is also [further information](#) about the activities that they are permitted to carry out without a visa during their stay.

If there are schoolchildren of other (non-German) nationalities in the travelling group, they should [check if they need a visa](#) to visit the UK.

If they need a visa, please pay particular attention that they:

- a. Apply for a Visitor Visa in good time. Applications may be submitted up to three months prior to travel, so do apply as far in advance as possible of your planned travel to the UK.
- b. Attach to their individual application as many official documents as possible from their school about the planned trip (such as information shared with the parents and the intended programme).
- c. Attach documents that demonstrate clearly that sufficient funds are available to support the child financially during the trip.
- d. Where the child is due to stay with a host family this address should be supplied in the visa application. Where the host family is not yet known at the time of application, the host school's address can be given, and the name of the Headteacher provided as a main contact. However, whether a visa will be granted in this case is at the discretion of the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) case officer processing the application.
- e. Include the personal and contact details of up to two accompanying school teachers as the point(s) of contact when the child is in the UK.

If you have been waiting considerably longer than expected for a decision on a visa for a class trip and your planned travel is in the next 5 working days, please contact the Embassy via [UKinGermany@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:UKinGermany@fcdo.gov.uk). The British Embassy is not responsible for visa matters and cannot intervene directly in individual visa decisions, but we can confirm that applications made in good time to UKVI are being processed as quickly as possible.