

**Caterham School - Child Student Visa**

**Visa Sponsorship and Immigration Compliance**

Caterham School is proud to be a licensed sponsor under the Student and Child Student visa routes. We are fully compliant with UK immigration laws and are committed to supporting our pupils and their families through the visa process. Our priority is to ensure that every pupil has the required permission to study at Caterham throughout their time with us.

As part of our sponsor duties, we are required by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to verify and hold records of the immigration status of all pupils, whether day or boarding and regardless of nationality. Therefore, families must provide a copy of their child’s passport and where applicable, their digital immigration status (eVisa) or any existing visa documentation when applying. All information is stored securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the School’s Privacy Notice.

Parents applying for a Child Student visa must follow this guidance closely. Providing the correct documents at the earliest stage will help avoid delays.

In rare cases, the School may need to seek legal advice about a pupil’s immigration status or documentation. Where this happens, we may ask parents or the fee payer to cover any associated costs. If parents seek independent legal advice, they are responsible for those costs.

We take safeguarding very seriously. The whereabouts and welfare of sponsored pupils are monitored by our boarding houses in line with the School’s safeguarding policies and UKVI’s Student Sponsor Guidance.

**Eligibility for a Child Student Visa**

Children who are not British or Irish citizens and who do not have another form of permission to live in the UK – such as Indefinite Leave to Remain or status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) – will need to apply for a Child Student visa.

Caterham School can only sponsor pupils who are Full or Weekly boarders. We are unable to sponsor Day or Half-weekly boarders under the Child Student visa route.

**Visa Application Process**

To apply for a Child Student visa, the following must be in place:

* An unconditional offer from Caterham School
* Confirmation that sufficient funds are available to cover one academic year of tuition and boarding fees *(some families may be required to pay in full before a visa can be issued – see Additional Financial Information)*
* A letter of parental consent for the visa, travel and care arrangements in the UK
* A suitable guardian arrangement in place for the child while in the UK, with a signed Letter of Undertaking provided by the nominated guardian.

Once the offer is accepted, the Admissions Department will conduct all necessary checks and issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number. This number must be used to apply for the visa.

For full details, including the online application form, visit: [Child Student visa: Overview - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa)

**Visa Application Timing**

**From outside the UK**: Applications can be made up to 6 months before the course starts. Decisions are typically made within 3 weeks.

**From inside the UK**: Applications can be made up to 3 months before the course starts. The current visa must still be valid and the new course must begin within 28 days of the old visa expiring. Decisions usually take up to 8 weeks.

Pupils must **not travel to the UK** before the start date listed on their visa.

**Guardianship and Safeguarding Requirements (from May 2025)**

UKVI requires Child Student visa applicants to have suitable care arrangements in place. This includes nominating a guardian for any period spent away from school.

From **29 May 2025**, sponsors like Caterham School will also have a duty to collect and retain key travel and care details where a *nominated guardian* is used. In these cases, the School must make reasonable efforts to:

* record the pupil’s arrival date in the UK
* log who is collecting the child from the airport
* confirm the address where the child will be staying (if not going directly to school)
* report to the relevant authority if the child does not enrol as expected

These requirements reflect strengthened safeguarding measures introduced by UKVI and are designed to ensure appropriate oversight of all care arrangements.

For full details on permitted guardianship arrangements and requirements, please visit our website: [Guardianship - Caterham School](https://www.caterhamschool.co.uk/school-life/boarding/guardianship/)

**Financial Requirements**

Visa applicants must show they have enough money to pay for one academic year of fees and appropriate living arrangements. The exact amount depends on the student's living situation and care arrangements.

For financial documentation guidance and amounts, visit: [Child Student visa: Overview - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa)

Some nationalities are exempt from providing financial evidence but must still be able to present it if requested.

**Additional Financial Information**

Due to unique financial regulations in specific regions, parents from these areas are required to pay the full year’s school fees upfront as part of the visa process. This helps ensure a smooth and timely visa application. As the list of affected countries can change, we will inform you with plenty of advance notice should this apply to you. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us at boardingadmissions@caterhamschool.co.uk for the most up-to-date information or if you have any questions.

**Immigration Health Surcharge and Visa Fee**

All Child Student visa applicants must pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) and a visa application fee. This provides access to the UK’s National Health Service during the period of study.

For up-to-date costs and payment information, visit:

* [Child Student visa](https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa)
* [UK healthcare as part of your immigration application](https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application)

**Visa Interviews**

Pupils aged 16 or 17 may be invited to attend an interview with UKVI. During this interview, they may be asked to confirm their study plans, knowledge of Caterham School and living arrangements.

**Digital Immigration Status (eVisa)**

Successful applicants will receive a digital immigration status (eVisa), which replaces the previous physical Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). This status is linked to the pupil’s passport and can be accessed and shared online via the UKVI system.

Applicants can manage their eVisa through the UK Immigration: [UK Immigration: ID Check’ app](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-immigration-id-check-app) or the official UKVI portal. To view or share immigration status, visit the eVisa portal:[www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status](https://www.gov.uk/evisa/view-evisa-get-share-code-prove-immigration-status).

Please visit [eVisas](https://www.gov.uk/evisa) - GOV.UK for further information.

**Visa Administration Charge**

A visa administration charge of £400 is added to the first term’s invoice. This fee covers the administrative work associated with UKVI compliance, including the issuance of the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), maintaining accurate immigration records and fulfilling the School’s ongoing reporting responsibilities as a licensed sponsor under the UK’s immigration rules.

This aligns with guidance from the UKVI’s sponsor duties and student sponsor policies, which place considerable compliance and record-keeping responsibilities on sponsors.

**Contact Us**

If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact our Admissions Team:

**Email:** boardingadmissions@caterhamschool.co.uk

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