



# Child Student Visa Compliance - Are You Getting it Right?

Feedback from our Immigration Essentials seminars suggested that schools need more support with compliance. In response to this, VWV offers comprehensive support services for schools to ensure you do 'get it right'.

## Compliance Checklists

Our comprehensive suite of compliance checklists allows you to audit your own records, systems and procedures against UKVI's expectations.

Comprising over 100 prompts across pupil recruitment, reception, record-keeping (pupil and sponsor), reporting (pupil and sponsor), visa renewals and others, hyperlinked to relevant guidance and more information, these checklists will give you confidence that you meet all UKVI's requirements.

## Sponsor Licence Assessment Visits

A member of our experienced Immigration team will visit your school to carry out a full assessment of your systems and procedures. Together with advice on the day, we follow up with a written report of recommendations for improvements to ensure the school is compliant.

Feedback suggests this is a particularly helpful service for schools expecting a compliance visit by UKVI, perhaps because visa refusal rates are higher than permissible. The visit is an opportunity for you to obtain expert guidance

and advice about particular scenarios you are encountering in international recruitment.

## Visa Application Guidance Packs for Parents

Our Child Student visa application guidance packs are used by schools to guide overseas parents through the application process for a Child Student visa, helping to reduce visa refusal rates.

The pack focusses on those areas where visa refusals are most commonly encountered, and sets out UKVI's requirements depending on the intended living arrangements of the pupil. The packs simplify the process for parents and minimise the risk of visas being refused by UKVI.

The packs include:

- useful template letters (which contain the information UKVI requires of parents) which need to be submitted with a pupil's visa application
- a checklist for parents before they submit the application
- hyperlinks to updated UKVI guidance

VWV offers two packs, one for prospective



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## What Others Say...

*"Thank you for your visit. It was an invaluable process that helped us to focus fully on the expectations of the UKVI. Not always easy in a busy school!"*

Registrar, Prep School

*"The detailed and carefully prepared checklists prepared by VWV ensured that our school was safeguarded from errors and omissions, and also reduced the likelihood of mistakes made by prospective parents in the visa application process!"*

Head, Senior School

boarding pupils and one for day pupils.

### **Right to Study Policy**

It is extremely important that schools which hold a sponsor licence take steps to ensure that all pupils at the school have the right to be in the UK and undertake their courses of study. We have prepared a template policy to help schools formulate processes to identify pupils who are subject to immigration control, both at the admission and enrolment stages.

Appendices provide guides to help schools identify whether pupils have a right to study and describe the documentation which should be inspected and copied at enrolment.

### **Crisis Management**

This is a bespoke service to assist when you are faced with a particular difficulty. We have experience in helping schools with a wide range of issues, from situations where an individual pupil has been refused a visa, to managing threats which could result in the revocation of your sponsor licence.

There are very few immigration and Child Student visa sponsorship issues which we have not dealt with on behalf of independent schools

### **VWV Immigration Helpline**

Even schools with lots of experience of pupil immigration issues will come across unusual scenarios from time to time. We offer a "helpline" service for schools with immigration queries they cannot find the answers to, or simply want to be reassured that they are doing the right thing. We support schools with Student and Child Student visa and sponsorship queries as and when they arise both over the phone and by email/in writing. Where those queries involve other aspects of the school's activities we are able to draw on

VWV's wealth of specialist schools lawyers to ensure you receive the best possible advice.

We generally charge for assisting with those queries on the basis of the time spent, but we are happy to discuss fixed monthly retainers for those schools which prefer certainty over legal spend.

### **Workshops and INSET Training**

We run Immigration Essentials seminars termly to provide registrars, international student and admissions staff with the latest information about Child Student visa sponsorship and updates on compliance. There is plenty of time to network with our specialist lawyers and colleagues across the sector to share questions and experiences.

For a more bespoke service, speak to us about how we can provide tailored training to you and your staff on immigration and sponsor licence compliance and provide practical on-site solutions for managing your Child Student sponsor licence.

### **We're Listening**

We are always keen to hear your ideas about how we can help you with your schools sponsor licence. If there is a product or service which you think would help you with compliance, do let us know.

**For further information about any of these products, or a conversation about how we can support you, please contact a member of the immigration team.**

## **Other Team Members**

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