



HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Visas for unaccompanied children



From 10 August 2022 children are eligible to apply for visas under the Homes for Ukraine scheme without requiring a similar visa application from parents or legal guardians.

Until recently, Ukrainian children under 18 years old could not be granted visas to travel to the UK under the Ukraine scheme unless their parents or legal guardians had also applied and been granted visas and could accompany them to the UK.

From 10 August 2022, children are eligible to apply for visas under the Homes for Ukraine scheme without requiring a similar visa application from parents or legal guardians.

The extended *Homes for Ukraine* scheme for children has specific requirements for sponsors, local authorities and children.

The UK-based sponsor **must** agree to host the child either for **eighteen months** or **until they turn 18**, and have been hosted for at least 6 months, whichever is soonest.

The sponsor will retain parental responsibility for all aspects of the child's life such as education, health, finances, and ensuring they maintain links with family and friends in Ukraine.

Homes for Ukraine scheme children's extension – eligibility

Children must meet all three of these conditions to be eligible for the scheme:

- 1 The child's immediate family members or legal guardians must be Ukrainian.
- 2 The child must have been resident in Ukraine before 1 January 2022.
- 3 The child must be outside the UK.

It is intended that this scheme is for children coming to the UK to live with someone that they knew before 24 February 2022, such as a close relative or close family friend. In exceptional circumstances, local authorities may allow children to be sponsored by a person that they do not know if certain conditions are met.

What is the application process?

- 1 **Sponsors must obtain the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian.**

There are two forms they **must** complete.

- a) Ukraine certified consent form (notarised by an authority approved by the Ukrainian Government and officially translated into English).
- b) UK sponsorship arrangement consent form (available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-uk-sponsorship-arrangement-consent-form).

A list of the information and documents the sponsor must provide can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-sponsors-children-and-minors-applying-without-parents-or-legal-guardians

- 2 **Sponsors must get online approval from their local council.**

Permission from the local council must be obtained **before** the child submits their visa application.

- 3 **The child applies for the visa (online application required).**

Sponsors will need to make sure the 'child sponsorship approval number' has been provided.

If a sponsor is intending to host more than one child, for example brothers and sisters, then a separate application process is needed for each child.

Sponsor approval process

It is necessary for potential sponsors to go through a number of checks before they can be approved, which include:

- a) Security and criminal record checks (PNS);
- b) Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS);
- c) Local authority checks on the safety and suitability of the accommodation. The requirements are listed in the guidance.

The local council will arrange a visit with the child 24 hours after arriving and provide them with information and guidance to ensure that they are safe and welcome.

Continued overleaf ►

Financial arrangements

The sponsor will take financial responsibility for the child.

An initial one-off payment of £200 will be given to the sponsor on behalf of the child to be spent directly on the needs of the child.

Furthermore, sponsors are entitled to the following financial support:

- 1 A monthly 'thank you' payment of £350 per household for up to three years. The payment may be stopped when the child turns 18.
- 2 Child benefit for each child under 16, or under 20 if they stay in education.
- 3 They can also apply for government schemes that support working parents.

Requirement for children travelling to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme

This summary is based on UK Government advice:

- 1 After a visa has been issued, the sponsor and the child's parents or legal guardians should agree on a travel plan before booking the flight to the UK.
- 2 The agreed travel plan should be sent to the local council, and the sponsor should inform the council if there are any changes.
- 3 If possible, the child should travel with an adult relative or their sponsor.

If this is not possible, then:

- 4 The child should travel with a copy of the sponsor's photographic ID and contact details and other appropriate emergency contact details.
- 5 The child should carry a mobile phone and extra power bank. The contact details of the sponsor and other appropriate emergency contact should be entered into the phone before the flight.
- 6 There should be an agreed meeting point eg. the waiting area of the airport (Ukrainian Welcome Point helpdesks are in operation in most UK airports).
- 7 The sponsor should produce their photographic ID when meeting the child.

Can parents visit their children in the UK?

Parents must apply for a visa if they want to come to the UK to visit their child. There are different options:

- They can apply under the Ukraine Family scheme if eligible.
- If parents are not eligible under Ukraine Family scheme then they should apply for a standard visitor visa.

Reuniting children and parents

If parents or legal guardians want to reunite with their children in the UK they will need to apply for a visa under any of the available Ukraine schemes if eligible. The parent and child will need to have the same sponsor under the *Homes for Ukraine Scheme*.

If the parent cannot live with the existing sponsor, they will need to apply with a new sponsor for themselves and their child. The parent and child will then be able to live together with the new sponsor after the parent's arrival.

If parents want their UK-based child to be returned to live with them in Ukraine, or any other country, before three years are up, they should inform the sponsor. The sponsor is then required to notify the Local Authority of the parent's decision. The Local Authority will require the parent's written consent stating their decision to remove the child from the UK, as well as details related to travel plans and reception arrangements for the child on arrival.

Further information

More detailed information is available at: www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-parents-or-legal-guardians-children-and-minors-applying-without-parents#sponsor-approval-process

For further advice and information please contact: ukraineadvice@settled.org.uk



Settled is a charity that aims to help vulnerable EU citizens in the UK to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. We work with a network of volunteers across the country.

  [settled.org.uk](https://www.settled.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1184580
OISC organisation no. N201900057

