



Department  
for Education

# **Free early education for 2-year-olds**

**Accessing eligibility for families with no  
recourse to public funds**

**September 2022**

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## Summary

This publication provides non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education.

The Department for Education has permanently extended eligibility for the two-year-old early education entitlement to disadvantaged children, in households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). This means that the most disadvantaged two-year-olds will be able to access early education regardless of their circumstances, subject to maximum income thresholds. The eligibility criteria on Gov.uk will be amended to reflect this change.

## Expiry or review date

This guidance will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

## Who is this publication for?

This guidance is for:

- Local Authorities

## Main points

This guidance explains how local authorities can verify a parent's eligibility for a funded early education place. This guidance will be in effect from 1 September 2022 and will be kept under review.

Local authorities are not able to use the eligibility checking system (ECS) to confirm eligibility for these families, as the family will not be in receipt of Universal Credit or legacy benefits.

## Income thresholds

Under the permanent extension eligibility to all NRPF groups, the annual household income thresholds for those families able to work are:

- £26,500 for families outside of London with 1 child
- £30,600 for families outside of London with 2 or more children
- £34,500 for families within London with 1 child
- £38,600 for families within London with 2 or more children

Whether or not a person will be considered within the London or the outside London threshold will be determined by the address of the family.

If the family is living within the local authority of one of the 33 London boroughs, the London thresholds will apply. If the family does not live within one of these local authorities, the outer London thresholds will apply.

This [map](#) shows the boroughs that form London.

## Age of the child

Eligibility in relation to the age of the child will remain as set out in the [Early education and childcare Statutory guidance for local authorities](#):

1. A child will be entitled to the free hours from the term after both of the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the child has attained the age of two; and, (2) the child or parent meets the eligibility criteria. This applies to all two-year-olds regardless of which of the groups set out in eligible groups section of this guidance the child falls in. Children are eligible from the dates set out below.
  - a. Children born in the period 1st January to 31st March: the start of term beginning on or following **1st April** after the child's second birthday;
  - a. Children born in the period 1st April to 31st August: the start of term beginning on or following **1st September** after the child's second birthday;
  - a. Children born in the period 1st September to 31st December: the start of term beginning on or following **1st January** after the child's second birthday.

## **Providing an application form**

We have provided a sample application form, including a self-declaration that you can provide to families and carers for verifying eligibility.

Though the form is designed for applicants to complete themselves, we appreciate that individual circumstances may make this difficult. Local authorities/childcare providers can assist with the completion if required.

Use of the sample application form is not mandatory. You can create your own form if you prefer.

In all cases, the family should complete and sign the self-declaration form confirming both their immigration category and that they are not above the maximum income threshold required for their area.

## **Confirming NRPF Status**

Local Authorities will be able to confirm a parent's immigration status from:

A Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

Or

On the internet through the 'Online Immigration Checking Service'

## **Biometric Residence Permits**

A BRP contains a parent's name, date of birth, facial image and fingerprints. It also contains their immigration status and entitlements while they remain in the UK. The permit will confirm whether the parent has no recourse to public funds in the remarks section.

If the parent has no recourse to public funds, the back of the permit will state 'NO PUBLIC FUNDS'; and

If the parent has recourse to public funds, the BRP will not say anything.

Figure 1 shows an example of a BRP:



## Online Immigration Checking Service

Some parents will be able to provide proof of their immigration status digitally. Parents will be able to provide you with a share code, which will allow you to check their immigration status via the Home Office's Online Immigration Checking Services – [Check someone's immigration status](#)

Figures 2, 3 and 4 show what you will see when accessing this page, you will be prompted to enter **the share code received from the parent, the parent's date of birth, your name, LA and your reason for checking the parent's status.**

Figure 2

# Check someone's status – start page

To carry out a check on an individual's immigration status, you will need to access the [Check someone's immigration status](#) service and complete the relevant steps to access their status information.

**Check someone's immigration status**

Use this service to check someone's immigration status if you have their 'share code'.

The share code will have been emailed to you or given to you by the person whose status you're checking. It expires after 30 days. You will also need the person's date of birth.

The service will show if they have the right to live in the UK, and any restrictions on their rights or access to benefits and services.

Use a different service to [check someone's right to work](#) or to [check their right to rent](#).

**Start now >**

Select 'Start now' to use the share code and check someone's immigration status

Figure 3

# Checker authentication

Online immigration status services 9

**What is the share code?**

Share code  
For example, A1234567G

**Continue**

The share code is created when the person gives you permission to view their status.  
Ask them to share the code with you.  
If you need help using this service, contact [UK Visas and Immigration](#).

Enter the share code that you have been given by the individual.

**What is their date of birth?**

For example, 31 3 1980

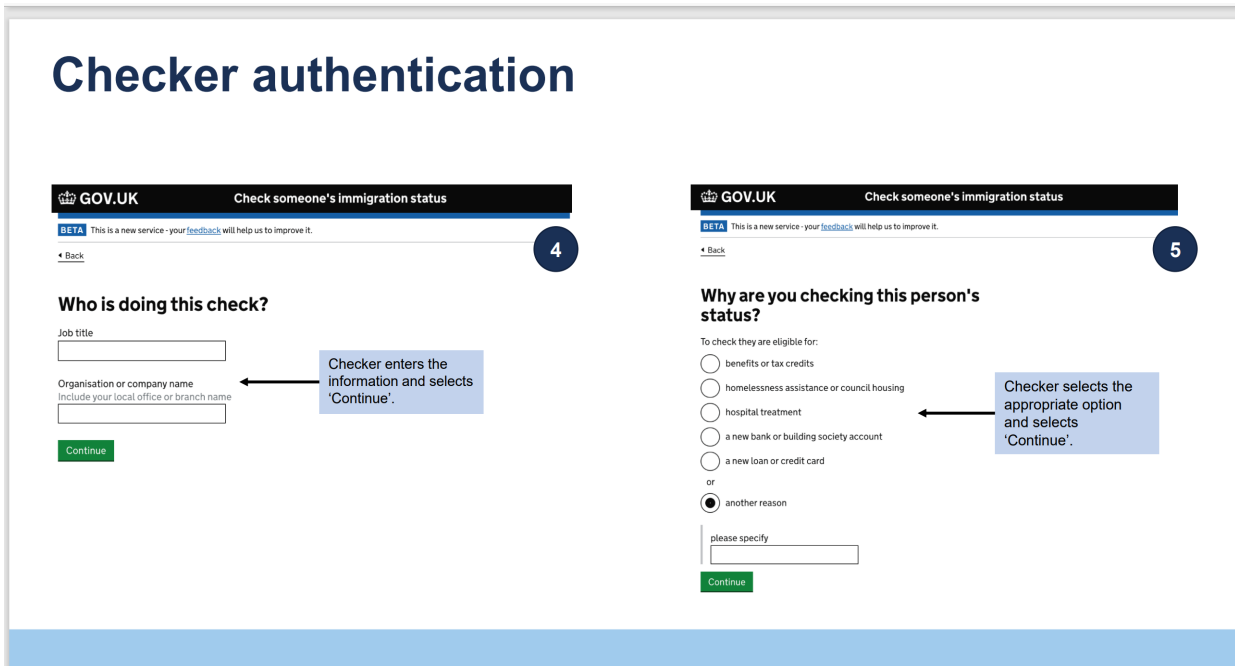
Day Month Year

**Continue**

Enter the individual's date of birth



Figure 4



Upon completion you will see the following screens which will confirm the parent's status and whether they have recourse to public funds:

Figure 5 shows what you will see when a parent has no recourse to public funds:

## This is what the checker will see

Name	Peter Parker
Status	Skilled worker
Valid from	1 September 2020
Valid until	1 January 2024



Rotate ↻

## Summary of what they can do in the UK

They can live in the UK until the expiry date.

As a Skilled Worker, they can study as long as it does not interfere with the job they are sponsored for. This must be in line with the conditions listed in the decision (or grant) notice they received from UK Visas and Immigration.


### Things they cannot do

They cannot get [public funds](#).

Create a share code

**Figure 6** shows what you will see when a parent has indefinite leave to remain and recourse to public funds:

## This is what the checker will see

<b>Name</b>	Ashanti Ramirez	
<b>Status</b>	Settlement, also known as indefinite leave to remain	

There is no limit on how long they can stay in the UK.

[Rotate ↻](#)

[Create a share code](#)

[Leave service](#)

It is important to note that share codes last for only 90 days, during which time a parent's status can change. Please bear this in mind when checking the status of a parent. It is straightforward for a parent to provide an up-to-date share code.

Parents who do not have digital status should provide a [Biometric Residence Permit](#) to confirm their status.

## Confirming income

Check the [income thresholds](#) for your area.

Families should complete a self-declaration of their income as part of their application.

To verify this, we suggest you ask to see one of the following for the applicant and their partner:

- payslip
- P60
- bank statement
- letter from their bank
- letter from their employer
- letter from the local authority confirming support if applicable



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