

GOV.UK uses cookies which are essential for the site to work. We also use non-essential cookies to help us improve government digital services. Any data collected is anonymised. By continuing to use this site, you agree to our use of cookies.

[Accept cookies](#)

[Cookie settings](#)

 **GOV.UK**

Search



The United Kingdom is leaving the European Union on 31 October 2019.

[Hide message](#)

[Get ready for Brexit](#)

[Home](#) > [Brexit: preparations for schools in England](#)



Department
for Education

Guidance

Advice for schools on how to prepare for Brexit

Updated 3 October 2019

Contents

[Stay up to date](#)

[The EU Settlement Scheme](#)

[Staff from the EU arriving after Brexit](#)

[School places after Brexit](#)

[Prepare as an employer](#)

[European teaching qualifications](#)

[Checking for EEA teacher sanctions or restrictions](#)

[Travel to the EU](#)

[Data protection](#)

[Food supplies](#)

[Medical supplies](#)

[Erasmus+](#)

It is important that you plan now to [prepare for the UK leaving the EU](#).

Stay up to date

The UK will leave the EU on 31 October. This page tells you how to prepare for Brexit. It will be updated if anything changes, including if a deal is agreed.

[Sign up for email alerts](#) to get the latest information on Brexit.

The EU Settlement Scheme

Inform any staff, parents or carers of pupils who are EU, [EEA](#) or Swiss citizens that they need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 2020.

Read the [guidance on EU Settlement Scheme](#) to find out who needs to apply.

Use the [EU settlement scheme toolkit for employers](#) to help your employees.

Irish citizens' right to live in the UK will not change when the UK leaves the EU. Irish citizens do not need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme, but their family members, who are not Irish or British citizens, will need to.

Staff from the EU arriving after Brexit

Read [employing EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members after Brexit](#) to make sure your staff can work in the UK.

School places after Brexit

Schools and local authorities cannot take into account nationality or immigration status when deciding which pupils to admit. There will be no change to this after Brexit.

Once the future immigration system is introduced in 2021, EU, EEA and Swiss nationals will not be able to enter the UK for the sole purpose of attending a state-funded school. This will not prevent children who are entering the UK for another purpose, for example, as a dependant of a worker or a student, from being eligible for a school place.

The right of Irish nationals to access education will continue to be protected under the [Common Travel Area](#) arrangements.

UK nationals with children who return from the EU after the UK leaves the EU will continue to be entitled to [apply for a school place](#).

Prepare as an employer

Read the [advice about employing](#) to prepare.

Read the guidance on [workplace rights if there's no Brexit deal](#).

European teaching qualifications

Teachers with EU, EEA or Swiss teaching qualifications who already have qualified teacher status (QTS) will continue to hold QTS.

In the event of a no-deal Brexit:

- teachers that have applied for QTS before the exit date will be able to continue with their application under the previous system as far as possible
- teachers with EU, EEA or Swiss qualifications who have not applied before the exit date will still be able to apply for QTS after Brexit under a new system, but will need to provide a letter of professional standing from a competent authority or other relevant body in the EEA country, or Switzerland, where they are recognised

Read the [qualified teacher status \(QTS\) guidance](#) for further information.

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal that contains an implementation period, there will be no change to arrangements for EEA and Swiss nationals that apply for QTS recognition during that time. Arrangements after the implementation period are subject to further negotiations between the UK and EU.

Checking for EEA teacher sanctions or restrictions

If there's a no-deal Brexit, EEA professional regulating authorities will no longer be required to automatically share details of any sanction or restriction imposed on teachers with the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA). This means the TRA will no longer automatically receive or maintain details of those teachers who have been sanctioned, post exit, in EEA member states.

In this case schools must continue to carry out the same safer recruitment checks for applicants who have lived or worked outside the UK as they currently do for all other staff. In addition, schools must continue to make any further checks they think appropriate so they can consider any relevant events that occurred outside the UK. Schools will be able to apply the same processes as they do when employing an individual from the rest of the world.

If the UK leaves with a deal, the existing system for checking EEA sanctions will remain in place until at least 31 December 2020.

When the UK leaves the EU we will update the [keeping children safe in education statutory safeguarding guidance](#) to reflect these changes.

Travel to the EU

Read [Visit Europe after Brexit](#) and [access to healthcare for UK nationals studying or travelling abroad](#) if you're planning a trip to Europe after Brexit.

Collective passports will remain in force.

Check the [foreign travel advice pages](#) for the latest updates on the relevant country and sign up for an [email alert subscription for foreign travel advice](#).

Follow the guidance on [taking equipment to the EU](#) if you're arranging school travel to the EU with sports, exhibitions or other equipment.

Follow the guidance on [preparing to drive in the EU after Brexit for bus and coach drivers](#) if relevant.

Check to see which countries still accept the [List of Travellers visa scheme](#) for school groups.

Data protection

Read the [Brexit guide: data protection for education providers](#) to find out what you need to do to remain compliant with data protection laws after Brexit.

Food supplies

Contact your food supplier or suppliers, or your local authority or academy trust, if they arrange food on your behalf, to make sure they:

- are planning for the potential impacts of a no-deal Brexit, including:
 - ensuring that their secondary suppliers are prepared
 - plans to adapt menus to allow for product substitution if necessary
- can continue to meet nutritional standards
- can continue to meet special dietary needs and manage allergies

Local authorities and schools must continue to provide meals to all registered pupils who request one. Where the pupil meets the criteria for free school meals, the meal must be provided, free of charge.

Schools have significant flexibilities within the school food standards, which they can refer to if certain items are in short supply.

Medical supplies

Continue with your normal arrangements for medical supplies to support pupils with health conditions.

If you have concerns about meeting your statutory duties for SEND, health and safety, or safeguarding, work with your local authority or academy trust to make contingency plans.

Read the guidance on [planning for a possible no-deal Brexit: information for the health and care sector](#) for more information.

Erasmus+

You should continue to deliver any Erasmus+ and ESC projects that are contracted.

Participation in Erasmus+ will continue until 2020 with a deal.

You may no longer receive EU funding for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) projects if there is a no-deal Brexit.

Read our guidance for more information and [register to claim from the government guarantee](#).

Is this page useful? [Yes](#) [No](#)

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

Brexit

[Get ready for Brexit](#)

Services and information

[Benefits](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Employing people](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Services](#)

[Guidance and regulation](#)

[News and communications](#)

[Research and statistics](#)

[Policy papers and consultations](#)

[Transparency and freedom of information releases](#)

[Help](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookies](#) [Contact](#) [Accessibility statement](#) [Terms and conditions](#)

Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg Built by the [Government Digital Service](#)

OGI All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright