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Child employment and performance licences

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Child employment

Having a part-time or holiday job can be a good experience for children. It gives them experience of work and extra pocket money.

There are national laws and local bye-laws in place which regulate the type of work children can do. This includes the hours they can work so that they are working safely and their education doesn't suffer.

We produce an advice leaflet that explains the regulations in more detail.

[Children and young people in employment \[PDF 480KB\]](#)

The main points of this are

Children of compulsory school age may only work if they:

- Are over 13 years of age
- Have a work permit issued by the local authority
- Have suitable clothes and shoes if working outdoors
- Are employed in 'light work'

Permitted employment

You can only employ children aged 13 in light work in certain occupations. Examples of these are below:

For a complete list, refer to the [employment bye-laws](#).

- Delivery of newspapers
- Shop work - including shelf-stacking
- Domestic work in hotels
- Cafe or restaurant
- Office work

You will need a work permit whether a child is being paid for the work or not, even if they are working in a family business.

To get a work permit you will need to complete the application form and return it to the child employment team with a copy of their birth certificate.

The application form should be completed by both the parent/carer of the child and the employer.

The employer will need to carry out a risk assessment and discuss this with the child and parent

Employers may find this [specimen risk assessment useful](#).

[Employment of a child application form \[PDF 439KB\]](#)

There is no charge for the issue of work permits.

We will issue the permit in the name as it appears on the birth certificate or deed poll document.

As a general rule a child must have good school attendance and punctuality. Each child's attendance is considered before a permit is issued.

A child does not need a work permit for work experience arranged by their school. If the employer later decides to employ the child a permit will be required.

Child performance/activities licensing

Legislation and guidance

The child performance and activities licensing legislation sets out the arrangements that must be made to safeguard children when they take part in certain types of performances, paid sport or paid modelling and what the law requires of people responsible for putting on these performances and activities.

The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014 - set out the requirements of licences and exemptions issued under section 37 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963.

[The Children \(Performances and Activities\) \(England\) Regulations 2014 \[PDF 97KB\]](#)

[Children and Young Persons Act 1963](#)

You may find the [Department for Education advice document](#) helpful to read alongside these regulations.

Applying for a performance/activities licence

Every child who is taking part in a performance or activity, which falls under the remit Section 37 of the [Children and Young Persons Act 1963](#) must have a licence or exemption issued by your own council.

The person responsible for the production or organisation of the activity will make the application for the licence.

The application form should be submitted with the supporting documentation.

[Application for a licence \[PDF 577KB\]](#)

Licence exemptions

There are some circumstances when a licence will not be required.

4 day rule(C&YP Act 1963, Sec. 37(3)(a))

A child can perform under this exemption if they (or anyone else) are:

- Not paid
- There is no school absence
- The performance(s) will mean that they will not have performed on more than 4 days in the preceding 6 months

It is a legal requirement get a licence when one is required and anyone who causes a child to do anything against the licensing requirements commits an offence.

If a producer relies on this exemption they should have reasonable grounds for believing the child's performance benefits from it.

Exemption notifications under the '4 day rule' should be submitted to the council in the area the child lives.

[Non licence performance notice \[PDF 386KB\]](#)

Body of persons approval (BOPA) (C&YP Act 1963, Sec 37(3)(b))

A body of persons exemption approves an organisation to put on performances involving children without requiring them to be individually licensed by their own councils.

It is issued by the council where the performance is taking place and covers all children irrespective of the area they live in. It is particularly useful for organisations putting on shows, competitions, festivals etc. involving large numbers of children.

Our [BOPA guidance document](#) explains the process for applying for a BOPA for performances taking place within the Blackpool Council boundary.

Performances abroad

The [Department for Education guidance extract](#) explains the procedure for applying for a licence for a child to perform abroad.

Applications must be made to the magistrates court.

For children residing in Blackpool, contact the court direct at Lancsmagslisting@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk or 01772 208000.

Chaperone service

Before issuing a licence, we must be satisfied with the arrangements for the supervision and welfare of the child, and that disruption to their education is kept to a minimum.

The licence holder is responsible, throughout the period covered by the licence, for ensuring that the child is in the charge of a responsible adult.

This person is known in law as a chaperone.

The child must be supervised at all times by a chaperone approved by your local council, unless they are under the direct supervision of their parent or legal guardian.

Blackpool residents wishing to apply to become an approved chaperone should contact the child employment team and an application pack will be sent to you.

You will also be required to pay our admin/training fee of £30, plus the additional DBS fee if you are applying as a professional chaperone. You will be required to undertake some online safeguarding children training and attend an interview/training session.

We recommend that you read our [guidance for chaperones](#), which will explain the role of the chaperone and our approval process in more detail before you contact us.

Useful links and information

[NNCEE \(National Network for Child Employment and Entertainment\)](#)

[NSPCC guidance for safeguarding in the performing arts](#)

[Arranging an event - Advice for dance/theatre schools \[PDF 390 KB\]](#)

[Guidance for developing child protection policies and procedures \[PDF 840KB\]](#)

[Specimen child protection policy IT \[PDF 521 KB\]](#)

[Advice leaflet for parents \[PDF 363 KB\]](#)

Contact

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