**Information Regarding Group Passport Application for Karlsruhe Trip**

To make travel to Germany easier we are currently preparing a ‘Group Passport’ so most members of RHYO can travel under one passport. This is usual for groups of children traveling to Europe. We need information and parental/guardian permission for each child going to Karlsruhe. The two main criteria for each child traveling on the group passport are:

1. They must be a British national
2. They must be under 18 by the end of the trip (27th July 2019)

**If your child does not meet with the criteria above then they will need to have their own, valid passport to travel.**

If your child is eligible to travel under a group passport, we want to provide you with as much notice as possible to gather the information required for the application. We would request that you start to prepare the 2 pieces of information we need:

1. You need to provide 2 x passport photos for each child and write their name on the back of one of the photos (Please leave the other one blank). When writing the child’s name, you will also need to leave enough space for the group leader to counter sign. Please ensure that the photo is a recent one and complies with passport photo guidance.
2. You will need to complete the nationality questionnaire and parental/guardian consent form. Please note that there are different forms for children born in the UK or outside of the UK. Please ensure you complete the correct form.

The form will ask if you are a British citizen, for further guidance regarding how to tell if you are a British citizen, please see below.

If you want your child to travel under their own passport then please see the rules below regarding travel after Brexit (If we leave the EU without a deal)

We are aware that dealing with forms regarding nationality and travel abroad can be stressful. Please do come and talk to a member of staff if you have any concerns about passports.

**We will be holding a briefing session at Saturday Music School on 2nd March. Please arrive with the requested passport photos and completed forms.**

**If you are experiencing difficulties with completing the form, there will be staff members available from 12pm to discuss the form with you.**

**If you have completed the form and have your photos, then please arrive at 12:30pm to hand in the information and for a briefing regarding the trip.**

**Passport rules for travel to Europe after Brexit**

The rules for travel to most countries in Europe change if the UK leaves the European Union (EU) with no deal.

**After 29 March 2019:**

You should have at least 6 months left on your passport from your date of arrival. This applies to adult and child passports. If you renewed a passport before it expired, up to 9 extra months may have been added to your new passport’s expiry date. Any extra months on your passport over 10 years may not count towards the 6 months that should be remaining for travel to most countries in Europe.

The new rules will apply to passports issued by the UK, Gibraltar, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Jersey.

**How to tell if you are a British citizen**

**If you were born before 1 January 1983**

On 1 January 1983, you became a British citizen if **both** of these applied:

• you were a citizen of the UK and Colonies on 31 December 1982

• you had the 'right of abode' in the UK

'Right of abode' means you:

• are entirely free from UK Immigration Control and don’t need to get permission from an Immigration Officer

to enter the UK

• can live and work in the UK without restriction

This includes people who:

• were born in the UK

• were born in a British colony and had the right of abode in the UK

• have been naturalised in the UK

• had registered as a citizen of the UK and Colonies

• could prove legitimate descent from a father to whom one of these applies

People who had the right to live in the UK but not the 'right of abode' did not become British citizens.

**If you were born after 31 December 1982**

Being born in the UK does not automatically give you British citizenship.

If you were born after 31 December 1982, you will be a British citizen if either your mother or father\* was either:

• a British citizen when you were born

• 'settled' in the UK when you were born

In most cases you will be a British citizen if your mother or father\* was born or naturalised in the UK.

There are other situations in which a mother or father’s\* British nationality can pass to their children born abroad.

Please call the Passport Adviceline on 0300 222 0000 if you think this may apply to you.

**\*A note on fathers** Until July 2006, unmarried British fathers could not pass on their British nationality.

If you were born before then, your father’s British nationality will pass to you only if he was married to your mother. It does not matter if they were married before or after you were born.

**How to tell if you are a British overseas territories citizen (BOTC)**

Before the British Overseas Territories Act 2002, BOTCs were known as British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs).

BOTCs’ citizenship comes from a connection with a territory that is still a British dependency, like Gibraltar or Bermuda.

With the British Overseas Territories Act 2002, most people holding a BDTC passport automatically became British citizens. Only people whose status came solely from their connection with Akrotiri and Dhekelia in Cyprus did not.

The Act gives British citizenship as well as, not instead of, British overseas territories citizenship.

If you were a BDTC who became a BOTC in May 2002, you can choose to either:

• renew your BDTC passport as a BOTC passport

• apply for a British citizen passport

When your BDTC passport expires you can apply to renew it as a BOTC passport in the usual way. You don’t have to have the form countersigned.

If you apply for a British citizen passport, this is treated as a first-time application. You will need to provide a countersigned form and original supporting documents. Your existing passport will be returned to you uncancelled.

You should write on your application whether you are applying for a British citizen or BOTC passport.

How to tell if you are a British overseas citizen (BOC)

BOCs are people who have a connection with a former British colony (like Kenya) and who did not:

• become citizens of that country when it became independent

• become British citizens

**How to tell if you are a British subject**

Generally, British subjects were born before 1 January 1949 and had a connection with British India or the Republic of Ireland (Southern Ireland).

**How to tell if you are a British national (overseas)**

British nationals (overseas) are former British dependent territories citizens connected with Hong Kong.

**How to tell if you are a British protected person**

These are people who had a connection with territories that were previously British protectorates, protected states or mandated or trust territories.

What to do if you are still not sure - If you are still unsure, you can find more information on British citizenship on the website of the UK Border Agency.