



My Ref: FOI 6419
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

I would be grateful if you could provide:

1. The number and names of independent or non maintained special schools (day) currently operating within the local authority area, together with their designated need type(s) and current registered capacity and the average costs per pupil per annum covering academic year 2025/26. This should be provided as current spend over the year - it does not need to be qualified spend at year end budget point given that I am requesting average costs.

The Robert Ogden School - £87,325

Park House School - £57,792

Newstead Academy – £36,735

We record data by financial year therefore the average is based on the 25/26 financial year placement fees per year.

2. The number and names of independent or non maintained residential special schools currently commissioned by the local authority for its resident children and young people, whether located within or outside the local authority area and the average costs per pupil per annum covering academic year 2025/26. This should be provided as current spend over the year - it does not need to be qualified spend at year end budget point given that I am requesting average costs.

During the 25/26 financial year we commission 6 places at independent/non maintained special schools for resident pupils with SEND. However as there were less than 3 pupils at each of these settings, we believe that providing the names of the settings could risk identifying individual pupils. Furthermore, average costs would then be actual costs for most of the placements. To avoid any risk of identification the average cost for the education element of all these setting types was £98,682.

3. Details of any Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), approved provider framework, or equivalent commissioning route used by the local authority for special school, residential, including how a new provider may apply to join. A link or document can be provided.

Barnsley Council utilise the White Rose EMP for SEND.

4. The name and contact details of the team or individual responsible for SEND sufficiency planning and/or commissioning of specialist placements, to whom a provider may address an expression of interest.

Childrenscommissioning@barnsley.gov.uk

5. A copy of, or direct link to, the local authority's current SEND Sufficiency Plan, Strategy, or equivalent document, including any published gap analysis by need type (e.g. ASD, SEMH, SLCN) and by geographic area within the local authority.

This information is to be published on our website once it has gone through cabinet in October. I have therefore applied exemption 22 - Information intended for future publication.

Section 22 of the FOIA states that information is exempt if, at the time a public authority receives a request for it:

- the public authority holds it with a view to its publication;
- the public authority or another person intends to publish the information at some future date, whether determined or not; and
- in all the circumstances it is reasonable to withhold the information prior to publication.

Please find below the link to our webpage:

<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=135>

6. Details of any current or planned capital programme, free school proposal, expansion, or new-build project intended to increase special day or special residential school capacity within the local authority area, including expected additional place numbers, need type(s) to be served, and expected opening date.

Capital Development is part of an expression of interest process. For more information please contact childrenscommissioning@barnsley.gov.uk

7. Any published assessment of the local authority's current High Needs Block (Dedicated Schools Grant) position, including whether the authority is subject to a Safety Valve Agreement, Deficit Recovery Plan, or equivalent, and the value of any agreed deficit reduction target.

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

Please see link below to published Safety Valve Agreement, which has now ended (1st April 2026) and been replaced with the SEND Reform Plan.

[Dedicated Schools Grant 'Safety Valve' Agreement: Barnsley 2022-2023](#)

Please see the link below to the published Statement of Accounts 2025/26, page 71 provides the DSG Note showing the High Needs Block position.

[Statement of Accounts](#)

8. A copy of the send reforms plan as submitted to the DfE in June. This should be the submitted document and appendices.

The link below is the published Cabinet Report regarding the SEND Reform Plan

[SEND Reform Plan.pdf](#)

Further documentation was submitted to the DfE that is not included in the plan submitted to cabinet. This information is currently awaiting DfE approval and is intended for publication once this approval is received. As such, this information is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is intended for future publication.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

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Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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