



My Ref: FOI/ 5467
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 the following information relating to the identification and recording of neurodevelopmental needs (including autism and ADHD) within Barnsley's school-age population and, where applicable, within the elective home education (EHE) cohort.

1. Identification within the school population

Please confirm what data the Council holds at a population or governance level on the identification of neurodevelopmental conditions (including autism and ADHD) among children of compulsory school age in Barnsley schools. This may include, for example, SEND primary or secondary need categories, EHCP data, or any other indicators used by the Council to understand neurodevelopmental need at population level.

ADHD is not classed as a primary need therefore this data is only recorded within individual Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). ASD is recorded as primary need and this data is published annually by DfE.

For all plans maintained by the local authority the data is available in the underlying data sets at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans/2025>

For pupils in maintained schools the data is available in the underlying data sets at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england/2024-25>

As at January 2025 SEN2 return, 1260 children and young people with a plan maintained by Barnsley local authority had a recorded primary need of ASD.

As at January 2025 school census, 1052 children and young people with SEND (both EHCP and SEN Support), who attended a maintained school in Barnsley had a recorded primary need of ASD.

Please note some pupils will be counted in both of the above indicators.

2. Recording of ADHD specifically

Please confirm whether ADHD is recorded as a distinct category, flag, or identifier within any Council-held education or SEND datasets.

If ADHD is not recorded as a distinct category, please confirm how children with diagnosed or suspected ADHD are ordinarily recorded (for example under SEMH or other categories).

The council do not record this as a distinct category. Only the primary need, and in some instances, the secondary need, is recorded.

3. Neurodevelopmental information held for electively home educated children **Please confirm what information the Council routinely records about children registered as electively home educated in relation to:**

- o **SEND status, and**
- o **neurodevelopmental conditions (including autism or ADHD), where such information is held.**

The council holds the register of children who are Electively Home Educated and from this register we can identify if the child registered has SEND.

The council does not routinely register if a child has neurodevelopment conditions. The EHC team also record the primary need of pupils who are Electively Home Educated and have an EHCP maintained by them. Within individual EHC plans, neurodevelopment conditions would be recorded.

4. Recording of reasons for elective home education

Please confirm how reasons for elective home education are recorded (for example, through coded categories or free-text narrative), and whether the Council holds any aggregated summaries or analyses of those reasons.

The council records the reasons for EHE under the DfE guidance, and the register is a live document which we can filter to provide summaries of reasons.

5. Linkage between SEND / neurodevelopmental need and elective home education

Please confirm whether the Council holds any reports, analyses, or summaries examining the relationship between SEND or neurodevelopmental needs and children entering elective home education.

As above we can filter the reason provided for EHE but we do not routinely record neurodevelopment as a reason.

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

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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: -

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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