



My Ref: FOI5179
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: -

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request information relating to online schools. For the purposes of this request, “online schools” refers to online education providers that offer a full curriculum or represent a child’s main or only source of education.

Please note that this is different to a previously submitted FOI in which I requested information about the subcategory of *unaccredited* online schools. The FOI that I am submitting now is asking for data about all online schools, not just unaccredited ones.

I reiterate that for the purposes of this request, “online schools” refers to online education providers that offer a full curriculum or represent a child’s main or only source of education.

To help you provide the information requested, I have attached a template table that I would be grateful if you could use to complete the answers. Please fill in the cells highlighted in yellow.

Please provide the following information:

1. The total number of children the council has funded to attend online schools in each of the past seven academic years (2018/2019 through to 2024/2025 inclusive). *Within each academic year, please break down the total by:*

- a. Children in primary education (Key Stage 1 and 2)**
- b. Children in secondary/further education (Key Stage 3 and above)**
- c. The *percentage* of these children that qualify/qualified for free school meals (but not including infant free school meals).**
- d. The *percentage* of these children that have/had special educational needs and/or disabilities.**

2. The total amount the council has spent on this attendance at online schools in each of the past seven academic years (2018/2019 through to 2024/2025 inclusive).

3. For the three academic years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025, please break down the total spend by each online school provider (and name them).

4. If the information requested in Question 3 is provided, it will not be necessary to answer this question as the information will already have been provided. *If it is not possible to provide the information requested in Question 3, please answer this question (Question 4) instead:*

The names of the online school providers used in each of the past seven academic years (2018/2019 through to 2024/2025 inclusive).

Please remember to break each answer down by academic year. To help you provide the information requested, I have attached a template table that I would be grateful if you could use to complete the answers. Please fill in the cells highlighted in yellow.

Please provide the most up-to-date information as of the date this request is fulfilled, in electronic (soft copy) form via email to me at antonia.cundy@ft.com.

If it is not possible to fulfil this request for cost reasons, please provide advice and assistance as to how I can refine my request. If you can identify any other ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

PLEASE COMPLETE EXCEL SPREADSHEET WITHIN THE FOLDER –

Data provided in the attached spreadsheet as requested.

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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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

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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