



My Ref: FOI/5190
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: -

- 1. Guidance which was sent from the council to schools in Barnsley about how the school attendance support team, or whichever team takes on that function, and other partners should work together to provide support for pupils and families**

The information requested is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is reasonably accessible by other means. The information can be found at the below link:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/education-welfare-service/education-welfare-resources/>

- 2. The number of targeted support meetings regarding attendance that have taken place between the council and West Riding School since August 2024**

Barnsley Council commissions individual places from West Riding. No targeted support meetings have been conducted by Barnsley Council.

- 3. What policies or guidance the council has issued to schools regarding absent cross border pupils**

Children in mainstream schools across boarder, will be monitored through school attendance polices and the LA targeted support meetings.

Any cross-border commissioned places have a contract and individual placement agreements which will include attendance expectations.

- 4. Policies or guidance the council has related to how the council tracks and analyses attendance data, especially where related to severely absent pupils**

The information requested is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is reasonably accessible by other means. The information can be found at the below link:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/education-welfare-service/education-welfare-resources/>

The council pulls data regarding pupils who are severely absent in Barnsley schools from the DfE monitor your attendance site, to discuss in targeted support meetings.

5. Policies or guidance around what action will be taken when a child is severely or persistently absent

The information requested is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is reasonably accessible by other means. The information can be found at the below link:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/education-welfare-service/education-welfare-resources/>

6. Guidance issued by the council as to how schools in Barnsley should track and share attendance data with the council

The information requested is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it is reasonably accessible by other means. The information can be found at the below link:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/education-welfare-service/education-welfare-resources/>

7. In the government's "working together to improve school attendance" guidance, mentions that schools are required to complete "attendance returns providing the local authority with the names and addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who fail to attend school regularly".

Barnsley Council pulls data from DfE monitor your attendance, in relation to pupils who are persistently absent with an EHC and Severely absent without an EHC and these children are discussed in targeted support meetings.

8. What form does this take? Is West Riding school completing these and have they been since August 2024?

Barnsley children who are placed at West Riding are placed through commissioning arrangements and the school will inform the EHC team of any attendance concerns.

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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: -

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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