



My Ref: FOI 5894  
Enquiries to: Information Requests  
E-Mail: [informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto: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. POLICY AND GUIDANCE**

**a) Has Barnsley Council issued any formal guidance, advice, or policy documents to headteachers or school governing bodies regarding how to handle parental requests for flexi-schooling arrangements? If so, please provide copies of any such documents.**

**b) Has this guidance changed in any way since the introduction of the government's updated attendance guidance (Working Together to Improve School Attendance, August 2024)? If so, please describe how.**

The EHE policy which includes guidance on flexi schooling and links to the DfE guidance, can be found on the Education Welfare Service Website. The EHE policy is reviewed annually in line with DfE guidance.

Each school has a linked Education Welfare Officer that meet with schools on a half termly basis, schools should discuss any requests for flexi schooling with their linked EWO.

**2. SEND / EHCP PUPILS**

**a) How many children in Barnsley with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are currently subject to a flexi-schooling arrangement, as of the most recent date for which data is held?**

Less than five

**b) How many such arrangements have been agreed in each of the following academic years: 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 (to date)?**

Less than five

**c) Does the council hold any data on the primary reason given for the flexi-schooling arrangement (e.g. anxiety, autism spectrum condition, medical need, other SEND)? If so, please provide a breakdown.**

The council collects termly data for pupils who are in receipt of less than 25 hours of school-based education which includes the following, Pupil identification, School and phase, start and planned review date, reason for reduction in provision, SEND status.

This data cannot be provided in relation to flexi schooling as it could identify children as there are less than five in the cohort.

### **3. GENERAL FLEXI-SCHOOLING DATA**

**a) Does the council hold any data — from school census returns, attendance data, or any other source — on the total number of children in Barnsley currently subject to a flexi-schooling arrangement, regardless of whether they hold an EHCP? Please confirm whether or not this data is held.**

Any child who is flexi schooled remains on a school roll so if we have the details of the child, we can gather data from the census

**b) Has the council received any formal enquiries, complaints, or escalations from parents who have been refused a flexi-schooling arrangement by a school? If so, how many, in each of the last three academic years?**

Nil

### **4. PENALTY NOTICES AND ATTENDANCE ENFORCEMENT**

**a) How many penalty notices for unauthorised absence were issued to parents in Barnsley in each of the following academic years: 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 (to date)? Please break down by primary and secondary phase where possible.**

This information is published on the Education Welfare service website

**b) Has the council's approach to penalty notices changed since the updated attendance guidance came into force in August 2024?**

Yes we issue Penalty Notices in line with the National Threshold and framework which came into force in August 2024.

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:

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**PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG**

Barnsley MBC  
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S70 9GG  
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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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