



My Ref: FOI/4243
Your Ref:
Date: 09/04/2025
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: -

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

I would like to request information relating to unaccredited online schools. For the purposes of this request, “unaccredited online schools” refers to online education providers that offer full-time education to pupils of compulsory school age which have NOT been accredited under the Department for Education’s Online Education Accreditation Scheme (see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-online-education-accreditation>).

For your information, I am aware that the Online Education Accreditation Scheme was only launched in the 2022/2023 academic year so all online school providers prior to 2022/2023 will have been unaccredited.

Please provide the following information:

- 1. The total number of children the council has funded to attend unaccredited online schools in each of the past eight academic years (2017/2018 through to 2024/2025 inclusive). Within each academic year, please break down the total by:**
 - a. Sex, i.e. how many of these children are male and how many are female.**
 - b. Age or ‘Key Stage’ year.**
 - c. Ethnicity.**
 - d. The proportion of these children that qualify/qualified for free school meals (but not including infant free school meals).**
 - e. The proportion of these children that have/had special educational needs.**
- 2. The total amount the council has spent on this attendance at unaccredited online schools in each of the past eight academic years (2017/2018 through to 2024/2025 inclusive).**
- 3. The mean cost per placement in an unaccredited online school in each of the past eight academic years (2017/2018 through to 2024/2025 inclusive).**
- 4. The median cost per placement in an unaccredited online school in each of the past eight academic years (2017/2018 through to 2024/2025 inclusive).**

5. The names of the unaccredited online school providers, or the top five most used unaccredited online school providers in each of the past eight academic years (2017/2018 through to 2024/2025 inclusive).

We do not hold this information. We do not use any unaccredited online schools.

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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