

18 December 2019

Our ref: 5890932

Thank you for your request received on 17 December 2019, for the following information:

**Could you please advise on your recommendations for the schools in relation to the religious observances days? Can the Russian Orthodox Christmas dates, 6 and 7 January, be requested as authorized absence days for religious observance? Those are important dates for the Orthodox community similar to the 24 and 25 December in the UK. They are also listed on the Holidays and Observances in the United Kingdom list:
<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/>**

Your feedback would be hugely appreciated.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

Dear Barnet Borough Council,

Could you please advise on your recommendations for the schools in relation to the religious observances days? Can the Russian Orthodox Christmas dates, 6 and 7 January, be requested as authorized absence days for religious observance? Those are important dates for the Orthodox community similar to the 24 and 25 December in the UK. They are also listed on the Holidays and Observances in the United Kingdom list:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/>

Schools are advised that the Epiphany in the Orthodox Tradition is respected as a day of religious observance. Therefore, that day would be an authorised absence. As this year the Epiphany is on a Sunday, children should be in school on the 7th January as normal.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.