

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

20 June 2022
Our ref: 8309791

Thank you for your request received on 6 June 2022, for the following information:

. Please can you share what support your LA currently provide to schools in regards to improving school attendance.

. Is there any evidence that the work you are currently doing is improving school attendance overall in your LA?

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

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below.

. Please can you share what support your LA currently provide to schools in regards to improving school attendance.

Barnet Education & Learning Service (BELS) offers a traded service to schools whereby they receive an allocated Education Welfare Officer to promote overall school attendance through review of practices & procedures, review of policies, supporting families with low attendance through meetings and referrals to additional support where appropriate and taking legal action where necessary. BELS administrates the issuing of Fixed Penalty notices and undertakes legal action. The Education Welfare Team runs annual training on attendance practices for any new staff or those who want a refresh on how to promote attendance, as well as being part of briefings held for key school staff to promote best practice with attendance. In addition to the Education Welfare Team, schools are also supported by Education Psychologists, SEN and the Learning Network with any concerns or questions regarding school procedures or specific cases on attendance.

. Is there any evidence that the work you are currently doing is improving school attendance overall in your LA?

Overall improvements cannot be attributed to just the Education Welfare Team, this is due to the collective partnership between schools and Local Authority departments to improve overall school attendance and the responsibility of individual school.

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 Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, 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.