

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

9 August 2022
Our ref: 8351646

Thank you for your request received on 31 July 2022, for the following information:

- 1. How many parents removed their child from school in your LA to become EHE (Electively Home Educated) as a reason of 'mental health' between 01.09.2021-22.07.2022?**
- 2. In recent years has your LA seen an increase or decrease in the number of parents removing their child to become EHE with a reason of 'mental health'?**
- 3. What support does the LA provide to children who are struggling with their mental health? Please send any relevant information/policies/documents in relation to support for children struggling with their mental health.**

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

Response

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some of the information you requested is not held by London Borough of Barnet.

We have provided answers to your request below.

- 1. How many parents removed their child from school in your LA to become EHE (Electively Home Educated) as a reason of 'mental health' between 01.09.2021-22.07.2022?***

When a parent registers a child for home education, we ask for the reason for this choice. It is up to parents to inform us of any individual circumstances that led to the decision of home education, or not. We do not record 'mental health' as one of the criteria for opting to home educate and we may be informed of this once a relationship has been developed with families but isn't something we check for at the point of registration. Due to this, we do not hold any data that identifies mental health as a reason a child is withdrawn from school to be home educated. I can confirm that the Education Welfare Team has seen an increase in anxiety and school avoidance post pandemic which we are working closely with schools to look at alternative solutions to supporting children back into school.

- 2. In recent years has your LA seen an increase or decrease in the number of parents removing their child to become EHE with a reason of 'mental health'?***

Please refer to our response to question 1.

3. What support does the LA provide to children who are struggling with their mental health? Please send any relevant information/policies/documents in relation to support for children struggling with their mental health.

Section 21 - Information available elsewhere -We consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 21 (information accessible by other means) applies to the information requested because it is already reasonable accessible at [Barnet Integrated Clinical Services \(BICS\) | Barnet Council](#)

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.