

2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

28 November 2022

Our ref: 8576676

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

1. How many schoolchildren had unauthorised absences recorded in the past four academic years? (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/2022)?

- Please provide a breakdown per academic year/

2. Please provide the number of each punishment given to the parent/carers for unauthorised absences for each academic year. If fines, please provide the number of fines given and the total sum.

- Please provide a breakdown per academic year

3. What is the highest number of days a single pupil has had unauthorised absences for in the 2021/22 year?

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.

How many schoolchildren had unauthorised absences recorded in the past four academic years? (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/2022)?

- Please provide a breakdown per academic year/

Please note that the Local Authority does not collect this data as the information can be found publicly here: <https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/pupil-attendance-in-schools/>

Please provide the number of each punishment given to the parent/carers for unauthorised absences for each academic year. If fines, please provide the number of fines given and the total sum.

- Please provide a breakdown per academic year

The Local Authority does not 'Punish' any parents/carers with every effort being made to ensure support and advice is offered beforehand. Legal action is only taken as a last resort when there has been no engagement with all other interventions.

2018/19: 46 Fixed Penalty Notices (£5,520) and 53 Prosecutions

2019/20: 30 Fixed Penalty Notices (£3,600) and 30 Prosecutions

2020/21: 0 Fixed Penalty Notices (£0) and 4 Prosecutions

2021/22: 4 Fixed Penalty Notices (£480) and 5 Prosecutions.

3. What is the highest number of days a single pupil has had unauthorised absences for in the 2021/22 year?

The Education Welfare Team is a traded service so not all schools are part of the work carried out by the team therefore I can provide the number of days for a child referred to us within the traded service.

The highest number of unauthorised absence days a single pupil has had for the academic year of 21/22 is 100%.

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.