

2 Bristol Avenue  
Colindale, NW9 4EW  
20 February 2023  
Our ref: 9036084

Thank you for your request received on 23 January 2023, for the following information:

- 1. Please share the local authorities strategic approach to improving attendance for the whole borough.**
- 2. How many professionals work within your School Attendance Support Team?**
- 3. How many primary school children in your borough are 'persistently absent' from school? (as of 23.01.2023)**
- 4. How many secondary school children in your borough are 'persistently absent' from school? (as of 23.01.2023)**
- 5. Please share all of the details of the Early Help work that the LA provide families to tackle the causes of absenteeism and unblock the barriers to attendance.**
- 6. How many fines have the local authority served for non-school attendance. Please provide a breakdown of holiday fines and non-school attendance fines. (Since 01.09.2022)**

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

### ***1. Please share the local authorities strategic approach to improving attendance for the whole borough.***

BELS is currently reviewing its strategic approach with improving attendance in line with the new guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance' set out for September 2023.

### ***2. How many professionals work within your School Attendance Support Team?***

The 'Attendance Support Team' as named in the new guidance is not currently implemented in BELS. We continue to have an Education Welfare Team with 7 Education Welfare Officers who lead on attendance in BELS.

**3. How many primary school children in your borough are 'persistently absent' from school? (as of 23.01.2023)**

We are unable to give a current snapshot of this dataset as the current database we utilise is collated from the DfE.

You can find the latest published information here: [Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn term, Autumn Term 2021/22 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england/autumn-term-2021-22)

**4. How many secondary school children in your borough are 'persistently absent' from school? (as of 23.01.2023)**

You can find the latest published information here: [Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn term, Autumn Term 2021/22 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england/autumn-term-2021-22)

**5. Please share all of the details of the Early Help work that the LA provide families to tackle the causes of absenteeism and unblock the barriers to attendance.**

Please note, the council's Early Help Team does not provide the public with any specific information assisting with issues surrounding absentee and attendance issues. This comes under our Education Welfare Team and information is publicly available here [School attendance | Barnet Council](#)

**6. How many fines have the local authority served for non-school attendance. Please provide a breakdown of holiday fines and non-school attendance fines. (Since 01.09.2022)**

565 FPN's in total, 541 for holidays, 7 for non-attendance and 17 for unauthorised lates.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.