

Archived: 18 February 2025 09:33:01

From: [FOI Responses](#)



Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Dear

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 21st January 2025 for information about pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Question:

How many pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are being educated in independent schools paid for by council?

- a) Please break down the numbers by financial year for the following years 2023/4, 2023/22; 2021/22
- b) Please break down by private schools inside and outside borough
- c) Please break down the cost of these independent placements by financial year for the following years 2023/4; 2023/22; 2021/22

Response:

Please see below table:

Year	Total number (Independent ALL)	Including Private in Borough	Including Private Out of Borough	Gross Spend £
2021/22	105	0	*	£3,197,463
2022/23	137	0	*	£5,163,864
2023/24	201	*	*	£5,900,865

With regard to the numbers for 'Including Private in Borough' and 'Including Private Out of Borough', this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information requested is third party personal data (i.e. personal data about someone other than you). 'a0 Section 40 (2) provides that information which is third party personal data is exempt from disclosure if one of three conditions is satisfied. In this case the following condition applies:

- 1. Disclosure would contravene one of the data protection principles

The information you have requested is personal data and has not been provided in this case as City of Doncaster Council believes that the release of this information, along with such low numbers to responses (this is below 5), could specifically lead to the identification of a child, who otherwise would not expect their personal information to be released into the public domain.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £49,00 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely,
Sophie

Sophie Ormshaw

Information Governance Officer
Information Governance Team
Corporate Resources
City of Doncaster Council
Civic Office
Waterdale
Doncaster
DN1 3BU

Phone: 01302 735326

E-mail: sophie.ormshaw@doncaster.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/>

Please treat the content of this e-mail as confidential. If you have received this e-mail and it is not addressed to you please accept my apologies and inform me as soon as possible.

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:56 PM

To: Freedom of Information Requests <FOI.Requests@doncaster.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: FOI || Private school placements || Doncaster Borough Council

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope all is well.

May you please supply me with the following information...

How many pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are being educated in independent schools paid for by council?

- a) Please break down the numbers by financial year for the following years 2023/4, 2023/22; 2021/22
- b) Please break down by private schools inside and outside borough
- c) Please break down the cost of these independent placements by financial year for the following years 2023/4; 2023/22; 2021/22

For example, in the financial year 2023/4, the council funded 145 pupils with SEND to attend independent special schools. 50 pupils attended private schools outside of the borough/ in a different local authority's area. The total cost of these private school placements was £54,000

If for data protection reasons it is not possible to provide a breakdown by financial year please provide the figures over the total three year period.

For example.... "In the following financial years: (2023/4, 2023/22; 2021/22) the council paid for 231 SEND pupils to attend independent special schools. 81 of these pupils attended private schools outside of the borough/ in a different local authority's area. The total cost of sending pupils with SEND to independent special schools in and outside of the borough/ local authority area was £217,891"

For clarity: Private schools (also known as 'independent schools') charge fees to attend instead of being funded by the government.

If you believe the contents of any such files are exempt from disclosure, please provide summaries of any such exempt files.

If this request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions and exemptions by reference to specific exemptions under the Act

My preferred mode of access to this information is electronic. I would be grateful if you would confirm that you have received this request.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]