



Education & Skills

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Coventry City Council
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Customer reference:
Our reference: REQ06377

14 November 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request for information relating to SEND transport.

You have requested the following information:

- 1. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children aged 5-16 in Coventry have received free statutory home to school transport? And, of these, how many children have received this provision on the eligibility of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year including the current academic year.***

We do not hold the information requested prior to 2018/2019 academic year and are therefore advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. This is because the information has only been recorded from 2018/2019 onwards.

Please see details below:

2018/2019 867 eligible for travel assistance
722 received the option of home to school transport ⁽¹⁾
176 of these applications were agreed purely based on their level of SEND

2019/2020 888 eligible for travel assistance
756 received the option of home to school transport ⁽¹⁾
178 of these applications were agreed purely based on their level of SEND

(1) Please note the above figures are where we have arranged for transport to pick children up from their homes and take them to school.

2. Do you routinely record educational absences due to a lack of home to school transport provision for children aged 5-16 eligible for this provision on the basis of SEND? If so, please provide the data on this for each academic year since 2009/2010 including the current year to date.

This question is not applicable to Coventry. There is no gap in entitlement to home to school travel assistance on the grounds of SEN and provision

3. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how much funding has Coventry spent providing home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year.

As per Section 21 of the FOIA I can confirm that the information you have requested for question 3 above is accessible to you by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/section-251-materials>

Please note this information is only available on a financial year basis.

a) Follow the links to outturn data for each year e.g. Section 251: 2012 to 2013 up to Section 251: 2018 to 2019.

If 2018 to 2019 is not yet available it should be published by the end of December.

b) Select the S251 outturn individual LA expenditure data workbook for the relevant year.

c) In the control tab where you are asked to select LA, select Coventry.

d) In the Local Authority table, ' 331 Table A' tab of the workbook, lines 2.1.4 and line 2.1.5 give the total pre-16 home to school transport spend for the Local Authority.

4. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children, aged 5-16, requiring specialist support from a chaperone on their home to school journey have received this support? Please give your answer as a percentage of total children eligible for chaperone support on the basis of SEND.

If an escort is deemed to be required on a route, then one is provided in all cases.

5. What quality assurance processes do you have in place to ensure that home to school transport provision, including but not limited to training of the chaperone and driver, type of vehicle, length of journey and needs of other children on board, for children aged 5-16 on the basis of SEND is appropriate to meet each individual child's needs?

The vehicles are appropriate for the configuration required by the service user requirements e.g. accessible vehicle utilised where wheelchairs are required. Driver and escorts all receive safeguarding training, moving and handling training, GDPR training, baby seat and harness training where appropriate, autism training as required, health and safety training including incident reporting, and risk assessment and safe systems of work awareness. All are enhanced DBS checked, and in addition, drivers receive MIDAS training, and tail lift/wheelchair awareness training.

6. What is your planning process, including timescales, for ensuring the provision of home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND, and what data sources do you use to support this process?

Applicants for travel assistance are strongly encouraged to submit their application before the end of the previous academic year. This enables the Council to confirm entitlement and conclude logistics, scheduling and commissioning processes during the summer break. This is updated as further information becomes available. The Council maintains a database on applications and utilises Trapeze to secure operational delivery.

Applications for transport are encouraged prior to the end of the previous school year, and the planning process for scheduling and routing is undertaken throughout the summer holidays as the information becomes available. There are various systems utilised for this process, but operational processes are managed by Trapeze.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its FOI/EIR [Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours sincerely

Project Support & Operational Finance Officer