

Education & Skills

Postal address:
Coventry City Council
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Coventry
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www.coventry.gov.uk

Customer reference:
Our reference: REQ07589

08 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request for information relating to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

You have requested the following information:

For the academic year 2019/2020 please can you provide me with the name of the current educational placement (school) of any young people, 16 years of age and under, with educational health care (EHCP) plans or statements, placed in independent or non-maintained provision?

I would ask you to provide the information in an excel document, broken down under the following headings:

Category of Need (SEMH, ASD, etc.)
Name of School
Type of placement - (Day or residential placement)
Cost of placement per year

Please see details below of schools used for placements (all of which are day placements):

Acorns School (Keys Group)
Arc School Ansley
Arnold Lodge School
Avon Park
Bablake school

Bloomfield School, Tipton
Cedar Lodge, Manchester (Hexagon Care)
Clovelly House School
Crackley Hall School (Warwickshire)
Dovetree (Witherslack)
Gryphon School
Woodlands School, Bury
Hillcrest, Shifnal
Independent Education Services
ISP School (Kent)
Kimichi School
King Henry VIII
Lawrence House School
Lewis Charlton School
Lighthouse School
Maple Hayes Hall School
Mary Hare School
Mulberry Bush
New Horizons
Northleigh House School
Options Higford
Red Rose, Manchester
Rugeley School
Sallygate School (Channels & Choices)
Sketchley Grange
Swalcliffe Park School Trust
The Priory School (Ramsgate Kent)
The Ryes College and Community
Values Academy
Wathen Grange
Wightwick Hall School

As per Section 21 of the FOIA the information for category of need for specific schools can be found on individual schools' websites. Their contact details can be found at the link below:

<https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

The Council confirms that it holds the information in relation to the cost of placements for Coventry pupils but that it is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

“Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)”

In this case, disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the provider for the amounts they charge for this service. As a result, we are satisfied that the exemption applies.

This exemption is subject to the public interest test as detailed below:

Public interest test

There is an inherent public interest in ensuring that there is openness and transparency in the spending of public money. Transparency is likely to increase confidence in procurement procedures and purchasing decisions made by the Council. It will also enable the public to understand whether the Council is getting value for money from its purchasing decisions.

Having said this, we believe that disclosure of the charge for this service could prejudice the Council's ability to make sound purchasing decisions as providers would not be operating from a level playing field. For example, disclosure of the costs to a competitor could lead to the competitor copying elements of their business model to win work without actually having the internal mechanisms (capacity, staffing skills, etc.) to deliver the product or service at the level and price outlined, when future bids with the Council or other organisations are tendered.

After considering the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council have decided to withhold the information relating to the costs.

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 Assistant