



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI841905194

Thank you for your request for information relating to Knife-related incidents in educational settings. You have requested the following information:

Request 1:

I am requesting this data for calendar years 2021 to 2025 inclusive, plus 2026 year to date where available.

1. I would like to know the total number of knife-related incidents reported to or recorded by your authority, broken down by calendar year and by type of incident, using the following categories where possible: possession of a knife or bladed article with no injury or threat; a threat made with a knife or bladed article; an assault with a knife or bladed article resulting in no injury; an assault resulting in injury; an assault resulting in serious injury; any other knife-related incident; and type of incident not recorded.

- I would also like, where your authority records or can identify the type of setting at which each incident occurred, a breakdown by setting type: state-funded primary schools, state-funded secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and setting type unknown or not recorded.

- I would additionally like to know the exclusion outcome for the pupil or pupils involved in each incident, broken down as follows: fixed-term suspension (with number of days where available); permanent exclusion; no exclusion with a managed move to another setting; no exclusion with another intervention (please specify where possible); no exclusion recorded; and outcome not known to the local authority. Where a single incident resulted in multiple pupils being excluded, please count each pupil separately.

- Finally, to understand whether incidents are concentrated in a small number of settings or spread more broadly, I would like an anonymous frequency distribution showing how many settings recorded 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 or more incidents over the full period covered by this request (with 5 or more further broken down into 5–9, 10–19, and 20+ where possible). I am not requesting the names or identities of individual settings.

If data for any calendar year is not held in a readily retrievable format, please provide the closest available approximation and note the difference. If your authority does not hold centralised records of knife incidents in educational settings, please state this clearly in your response.

In response to your first request, we do not hold the requested information and are advising you as per Section 1(1). We do not routinely track or record knife-related incidents specifically within educational settings.

Request 2:

I am requesting copies of any guidance, policy documents, protocols or frameworks that your local authority currently provides, or has provided since January 2021, to educational settings in your area concerning pupil exclusion. For the purposes of this request, relevant settings include state-funded primary schools, state-funded secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and others.

- I am interested in any local authority guidance, protocol or framework on the use of fixed-term suspensions or permanent exclusions, including any model exclusion policy, inclusion guidance or policies, or template the LA provides to settings for adoption or adaptation. I would also like any guidance on when exclusion is or is not the appropriate response to a serious incident - in particular incidents involving weapons or knives - and any guidance on managed moves as an alternative to permanent exclusion, including the criteria and process involved. Please also include any guidance on alternative provision placements (covering how settings are advised to use AP and when it is offered as an alternative to exclusion), any Fair Access Protocol operated by your authority, and any guidance on reintegration support following a suspension or return from alternative provision.

- I would also like any specific guidance your authority provides to settings on how they should respond when a pupil is found in possession of a knife or other offensive weapon on the premises, including when a setting should refer such an incident to the LA's designated safeguarding officer, the Youth Justice Service, or children's social care. Please include any local multi-agency protocol on knife crime or serious youth violence that sets out responsibilities for educational settings, and any LA-issued guidance on the use of metal detectors or search powers.

- For each document you identify, please provide the date it was published or most recently reviewed, whether it is currently in active use or has been superseded, whether it is mandatory for maintained settings or advisory, and whether it is also shared with academies, free schools, independent schools or FE colleges in your area.

- If your authority does not produce its own exclusion guidance but signposts settings

solely to statutory DfE guidance, please state this clearly. If any documents are available publicly on your website, a link is sufficient in place of the document itself. Documents produced or in use at any point since January 2021 are within scope, including those that have since been superseded.

In response to your second request, we are advising you as per Section 1(1) that we do not hold this information. We do not retain historical versions of guidance produced.

For the current guidance, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Council website, please use the following link:

[https://www.coventry.gov.uk/attendance inclusion/inclusion](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/attendance%20inclusion/inclusion)

We also signpost settings to statutory DfE guidance.

You may also find the following links useful:

[https://www.coventry.gov.uk/childrens social care/coventrys multi agency safeguarding hub mash/2](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/childrens%20social%20care/coventrys%20multi%20agency%20safeguarding%20hub)

[https://www.coventry.gov.uk/work related learning](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/work%20related%20learning)

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR 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.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

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