



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI848588923

Thank you for your request for information relating to Persistent absence among pupils.

You have requested the following information:

Please provide the most recent available data held by the local authority on persistent absence among pupils resident in your authority area.

For each ethnic group for which the authority records attendance data, please provide:

- 1. The total number of pupils.**
- 2. The number of pupils classified as persistently absent.**
- 3. The persistent absence rate (if already calculated).**

I am particularly interested in data relating to the following groups and would be grateful if these are included where recorded separately:

- * Gypsy/Roma**
- * Irish Traveller**

Please provide the information for the most recent academic year for which complete data are available.

If this information is already contained within an existing report, dashboard, spreadsheet, presentation, or briefing document, I would be grateful if you could provide the relevant document rather than creating a new dataset.

If available from existing reports without requiring additional analysis, please also provide separate figures for:

*** Primary schools**

*** Secondary schools**

For the avoidance of doubt, I am requesting recorded information already held by the authority and am not requesting the creation of new analysis.

In response to your request, we refer you to the attached table. Please note the figures provided is the number of statutory school aged pupils for the period 01 September 2026 - 07 July 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt, where it states "Section 40" next to particular ethnicities on the attached table, please note that this information is exempt under section 40 (2) of the FOIA. This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the Data Protection Act.

This has been done as the Council considers that this information meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) as:

(2) personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c))"

(3) "Identifiable living individual" means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to –

*(a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or
(b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual."*

Section 40(2) of the FOIA states that personal data relating to third parties (i.e. a party other than the person requesting the information) is exempt information if it is the personal data of a third party (i.e. not yourself) and one of the conditions in section 40(3A B) or 40(4A) is satisfied.

The information you have requested includes personal information of children where the numbers are so low, the pupils in question may be identified if this information is provided. Therefore, the disclosure of this information would breach one or more of the Data Protection Principles in the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). The condition at section 40 3A(a) is therefore satisfied because disclosure in this instance would breach the first data protection principle. This is because it would be unfair to disclose such personal data where the pupils concerned have no expectation that their names would be released in the context of the information held.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption not subject to the Public Interest Test.

The supply of information in response to a FOI 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

Information Governance