

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Could you please supply me with data on how many incidents of bullying there have been in the City's schools (including academies) in the current academic year and in the previous five academic years.

Can the number of incidents be broken down into individual schools and into particular incidents ie racial, homophobic, physical.

Can these be further broken down into a brief sentence which describes the incident – such as stabbed with a pen etc.

The LA does not collect the number of bullying incidents within the LA. There is no statutory requirement for schools to either collect this data or to report it to the LA, therefore, the Council does not hold this information. This letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held.

This information may be held by individual schools. As all schools are registered data holders you would need to approach each one individually. The link below will take you to a list of schools within this Authority.
<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/education-lifelong-learning/about-schools/schools-directory/schools-directory/>

How does the council deal with bullying?

The council has a clear Anti-bullying strategy which is managed by a multi-agency steering group (which is chaired by the principal educational psychologist).

The main plank of the strategy is the ABC (Anti Bullying Community award). Work is underway to encourage all city schools to sign up for the award.

To gain the award a school:

- Signs the Anti-bullying charter
- Agrees to promote anti-bullying procedures
- Has a robust and regularly reviewed policy
- Agrees to send staff and students on training around bullying.
- The school is visited by a team of assessors who interview staff, students, parents and governors to gain their view on the schools work to reduce bullying
- The school must show it records bullying and deals with it effectively.

The Local Authority is an Education Champion with Stonewall and works with them to promote anti-bullying strategies for Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered people.

A programme of anti-bullying professional development courses are run each year. Schools are regularly sent information about anti-bullying including a wide range of information leaflets on cyber-bullying, advice for children and young people. All information is available via the city council's website. Advice is provided to school to produce effective anti-bullying policies and procedures.

Over 100 madrassa teachers have been trained in anti-bullying work and training sessions have been run for children and young people's voluntary groups. The steering group is working towards developing an ABC award for faith groups that run complementary school in the city.

How many pupils have been expelled this year and in previous academic years for continual bullying?

Please find attached the Exclusions Data for incidents of bullying as requested for this Academic Year 2012/13 to date, and the previous 5 years. The information is for all City Schools (not academies).

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager

Information and Support

Leicester City Council

FREEPOST (LE985/33)

New Walk Centre

LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: info-requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.