

## 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:

**I am interested in learning about how many children go missing from schools across the UK each year. Please would you be able to send me data which answers the following questions:**

**1. How many children under the age of 18 have been removed from schools under the administration of Leicester City local authority, for whom there is no evidence of transfer to another school in a different local authority? In other words how many children are 'missing' from Leicester City schools?**

Children missing education legislation applies to children of compulsory school age (i.e. 5-16 years). For the calendar year of 2013 to date the number of compulsory school aged children who have left a Leicester school and for whom there is no evidence of transfer to a school in a different local authority is 45. Typically this involves families moving elsewhere in the country without notifying the schools that their children currently attend.

**2. Do you have a breakdown of the ethnicity of these children? If so, I would be grateful if you could send this information to me via email.**

**3. How many children from a South Asian origin have gone missing from school in the Leicester City local authority area? (Please note by 'South Asian' I mean children who have Indian, Bangladeshi, Afghani, Pakistani, or Sri Lankan backgrounds)**

See table below. Quite a large number of missing children have an 'unknown' ethnicity. This is usually because the parent has either not filled in the section of the form that asks for ethnicity or the child has gone missing before the collection of ethnicity data takes place.

Children who have gone missing from education in 2013 by ethnicity (as at 17/06/2013)

Ethnicity	Female	Male	Total
AIND - Indian	1	1	2
APKN - Pakistani		1	1
AOTA - Other Asian (this includes Sri-Lankan and Afghani)	1		1
ABAN - Bangladeshi			0
BAOF - Other Black African		2	2

BOTH - Any other Black background		1	1
BSOM - Somali		1	1
WBRI - British	1	1	2
WEUR - White European	3		3
WROM - Roma/Roma Gypsy	1		1
OOTH - Any other Ethnic Group	3	1	4
Unknown	6	21	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>

#### 4. What are the ages of the children who have gone missing from school?

See table below.

Children who have gone missing from education in 2013 by age (as at 17/06/2013)

Age	Female	Male	Total
5		4	4
6	6	5	11
7	1	2	3
8	1	1	2
9	1	2	3
10		1	1
11	2	4	6
12	2	4	6
13		2	2
14	3	1	4
15		2	2
16		1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>

#### 5. Are detailed records kept in the Leicester City local authority area about the numbers of children missing from school?

Yes, very detailed records are kept. Although there are currently just over 52,000 compulsory school aged children for whom Leicester City Council is responsible, our reports account for a further 16,700 children. These are young people who are currently of compulsory school age and who were in Leicester at some point. Hopefully these figures convey a sense of how much movement there is in the population of Leicester and also the very thorough approach that is taken to account for every single child. When young people

move to another local authority, we only close down the record when we have confirmed with the receiving school or local authority that they have the child.

**6. If you have a year-by-year breakdown of information relating to the disappearance of children from schools in Leicester City for the last 5 years, please send that through too.**

See table below. Please be aware that once a child is recorded in our statistics as missing, the record is not closed. It is reviewed periodically to determine if any new information has emerged. As such children can be added to our missing list and later removed.

Compulsory school aged children recorded as missing as at 17/06/2013 over the last five years.

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 to date
46	58	110	111	45

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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](mailto: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](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

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