

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:

1. Are records kept of approaches to your local authority alleging a child has been unofficially excluded? If yes, please provide me with the figures for the number of complaints for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 ideally broken down by type of school (ie academy...etc)

Currently, there is no recording system for any approaches to the local authority regarding unofficial exclusions.

2. How does your authority monitor and examine 'unofficial exclusions' for Schools under your jurisdiction and for Academies?

We are a pro-active local authority and challenge any potential cases that are identified through early intervention which sometimes takes place as a part of planning and/or review meetings about pupils, via pupil referral meetings with the Education Welfare Service, Primary and Secondary Behaviour Support Services (in particular the Behaviour Support Link Teachers), the Education Improvement Partnership (EIP), Education Inclusion Team (EIT), Primary Behaviour Inclusion Group, School attendance panel meetings, Pastoral Support Plan Meetings and challenging and monitoring the correct use of Attendance Codes.

3. Since 2008 has your authority given any training to the workforce of schools within your jurisdiction or academies with regards to 'unofficial exclusions'? If yes please give details of the number of training sessions.

Each year, we hold an LA training session for schools on exclusions. In addition to this, in 2008/09 unofficial exclusions were covered in training delivered to mentors working in primary schools. Also, we publish an exclusion booklet for our stakeholders which covers official and unofficial exclusions. Bespoke training is available to all our schools on a needs basis. We have a small Exclusions team within the Education Welfare Service who liaise with schools and families on a regular basis over the exclusions process.

4. Have formal processes and record-keeping been put in place with all of the schools in your jurisdiction and academies that help to identify instances of unofficial exclusions? If yes please outline them.

The Education Welfare Service monitors pupil absences via Pastoral Referral Meetings. If concerns are identified, the Education Welfare Officer and/or the Senior Inclusions Officer or other involved professionals challenge the school as necessary and professionals

work together with the school to resolve any issues.

5. Do you record instances of managed moves? If yes, please outline how many managed moves have occurred at schools within your jurisdiction in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 ideally broken down by school type (ie academies etc...)

In local authority primary schools, there were 12 managed moves (or supported moves) in 2009/10 and 10 in 2010/11. In addition, there were 16 children who moved from primary mainstream into primary PRU provision. In 2010/11, 16 children were moved to the primary PRU provision. All the moves between schools were successful and avoided exclusion.

In secondary, there were 65 managed moves between schools in 2010/11 of which 38 were successful, a further 20 were pending and 7 were unsuccessful. Our single Academy is a full participant within the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership and plays its part in referring and receiving students undergoing managed moves and 4 of the managed moves concerned the Academy.

All moves are carried out with the support of parents/ carers and other agencies involved.

BBC Newsnight is examining the issue of unofficial exclusions in both schools and academies. If there is anything else you would like to add or tell us about this issue we would be grateful to hear it.

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

**Head of Information Governance
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**

e-mail: FOIA@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 Head of Information Governance before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Wyeth

Information Governance Manager