

This matter is being dealt with by:

**Name Jilly Walden**

Reference: NCC-036966-18

T 0115 977 2788

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**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

15 April 2019

**Request for Information: Ref NCC-036966-18  
Number of children home educated**

Thank you for your request for information relating to number of children home educated. I can now let you have the following information in response to the questions you raised.

**For each of the following academic years: 2017-2018 and 2018 to date;**

- 1. Please state the total number of children home educated (for part or all of the year) in your local authority area.** Please see attached information.
- 2. Please provide all statistical information held relating to the home educated children such as a breakdown of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, SEND status and the reason for home education, if recorded.** Please see attached information.
- 3. Please confirm the total number of home visits carried out.** Please see attached information
- 4. Have you investigated any suspected cases of children being neglected or abused while being home educated? If so, please confirm the number of cases.** This information is not held in a reportable format. Any suspected cases of neglect or abuse would be reported through the MASH and then be subject to a child and family assessment or Section 47 enquiry if they met the threshold. Any reference to home schooling in either of these documents would be text based and would require a manual review of the forms. We completed 12,000 assessments and over 3,000 section 47 enquiries in the last year alone. You may be aware that there is a statutory limit to the amount of time authorities are required to spend retrieving and collating information to respond to a request. This is defined in the Fees and Appropriate Limit Regulations and currently stands at 2.5 days or 18 hours. We estimate that it will take one officer more than 2.5 days to locate the information you have requested.
- 5. Please add any further comments, for example any trends you have observed in home education, any comments about the current law around home education.** In terms of trends, there has undoubtedly been a very significant increase in the number of EHE cases known to the LA. Over the past four years, the number has more than doubled and it is clear from this data that that trend is continuing. There does appear to have been an increase in the numbers of EHE children with mental and emotional health

issues (sometimes but not always linked to SEND and/or (alleged) bullying) and also where attendance and the risk of prosecution appears to be a significant factor. There has also been an increase in children who have not obtained their school place of preference. Overall there seems to have been an increase in complexity of need both in terms of SEND and SEMH, and more children where there is active social care involvement.

We remain concerned that current legislation around EHE fails to safeguard children adequately, and results in many children not receiving an appropriate education

We hope this now satisfies your request, and should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me directly using the contact details below. In addition and for future reference Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publish previous Freedom of Information Requests and answers on our website, [click here](#) to see the Disclosure logs.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the

Team Manager,  
Complaints and Information Team,  
County Hall,  
West Bridgford,  
Nottingham,  
NG2 7QP

or email : [FOI@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@nottscc.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

Name : Jilly Walden  
Position: Complaints information and Mediation Officer  
Nottinghamshire County Council

## EHE Data 2017/2018 and 2018 to date

Data required	2017/2018	2018 to date
Total number of children home educated	772	834
Age	Aged 5 – 22 Age 6 – 32 Age 7 – 34 Age 8 – 36 Age 9 – 38 Age 10 – 49 Age 11 – 57 Age 12 – 85 Age 13 – 87 Age 14 – 114 Age 15 – 92 Age 16 – 126	Aged 5 – 8 Age 6 – 32 Age 7 – 33 Age 8 – 50 Age 9 – 39 Age 10 – 42 Age 11 – 59 Age 12 – 71 Age 13 – 109 Age 14 – 112 Age 15 – 151 Age 16 – 128
Gender	Male – 378 Female - 394	Male – 413 Female - 421
Ethnicity	White British – 546 Unknown – 122 Traveller/Gipsy – 60 Other - 44	White British – 600 Unknown – 134 Traveller/Gypsy – 58 Other - 42
SEND status	27 with EHC Plan	29 with EHC Plan
Total of home visits/meetings carried out	745	1042
Suspected cases of neglect /abuse	Data not kept – may be available from Social Care	Data not kept – may be available from Social Care