

FOI number: **HBC\_FOI\_20200017**  
Date FOI Received: **10/01/2020**  
Department: **Hertfordshire County Council (Not Hertsmere Borough Council)**  
Title: **Private special needs schools**  
Description: **Details of number of pupils funded in private special needs schools and the costs over 2016-2020 versus state-run and non-fee paying schools.**

**Request:** *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

Dear council press team,

Please answer the below request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, within the legal 20- working day timeframe. Many thanks.

Please note the following definition: A private special needs school means not an academy, free school or local authority school. Instead it is a privately-run institution with fees, sometimes a charity and sometimes profit-making, usually for pupils on SEN Support or with an Education Health and Care Plan or other special educational need recognition. The definition does not include pupil referral units or alternative provision for excluded pupils.

1. How many pupil places did the local authority fund in private special educational needs schools in the academic years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20?
2. How much money did the local authority spend in total on funding pupil places in private special educational needs schools in the academic years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20?
3. How many pupil places did the local authority fund in state-run, non-fee paying special needs schools in the academic years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20? (i.e. in local authority-run special needs schools or special needs academy/free schools)
4. How much did the local authority spend in total on funding pupils in state-run, non-fee paying special needs schools in the academic years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20? (i.e. in local authority-run special needs schools or special needs academy/free schools)
5. If there has been an increase or decrease in number of pupils in private special needs schools, please provide any reasons for this change.

This response should not take you over the time limit for an FOI. Please provide **at least the last 3 years of available data**. Thank you very much.

Please see also [attached spreadsheet](#) to use for your responses. Many thanks.

Any queries, please contact me on <REDACTED> or this email ASAP.

Kind regards,

**Response:** *(Response as Redacted sent by service)*

Thank you for your query.

Hertfordshire is a two tier area and this service is not provided at a district level but by the County Council.

Therefore, please refer your FOI request to Hertfordshire County Council who will be able to help you.

Kind regards  
FOI