

Request

I would like to request the following information under the freedom of information act.

1. The number of pupils who were moved to a different school under Fair Access Protocol (FAP) arrangements in your local authority area in the current academic year (2023/24) and in each academic year since 2018/19. Please provide a breakdown by year.
2. The number of pupils who were subject to more than one move between schools under FAP arrangements in the current academic year (2023/24) and in each academic year since 2018/19. Please provide a breakdown by year.

If possible, I would also appreciate it if you could provide the following additional information:

- A breakdown of the reasons for FAP placements (e.g., exclusion, lack of suitable school place, etc.) for each year.
- A breakdown of the age or year group of the pupils involved in FAP placements for each year.

Response

The fair access protocol is applied in the following circumstances:

- a) Where children are having difficulty securing a place in-year and it can be demonstrated that reasonable measures have been taken to secure a place through the usual in-year admission procedures.
- b) Children in alternative provision who need to be reintegrated into mainstream education or who have been permanently excluded but are deemed suitable for mainstream education.

In terms of Point a), there have been no pupils moved to a different school under Fair Access Protocol arrangements in Wigan and none have been subject to more than one move between schools under FAP arrangements across the academic years specified.

Tables 1 and 2 provide the number of pupils placed via the local authority's fair access protocol since academic year 2018/2019 up to academic year 2023/2024 so far. However, the data provided does not represent the number of pupils who have been moved to a different school in the Wigan area.

In terms of the data in Table 1, the fair access protocol has been applied to place these pupils, because the family has applied for a school place as a result of a house move or new to the country and no school within a reasonable distance (where reasonable is defined as within 2 miles walking distance for primary aged pupils and 3 miles for secondary aged) of the new address has a place available in the required year group.

Table 2 provides the number of pupils placed via the fair access protocol due to a house move or new to the country and have not been able to secure a place at any school via the normal in-year admissions process, even though there are places available in the required year group at a school or schools within a reasonable distance.

Table 3 provides the number of pupils placed via the fair access protocol in mainstream school for reintegration following a permanent exclusion.

Table 1

Year Group	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Reception	14	2	6	6	2	4
Y1	6	0	5	4	24	4
Y2	17	12	14	3	25	10
Y3	21	6	7	11	16	18
Y4	24	15	10	14	18	14
Y6	6	5	18	15	20	8
Y7	1	9	10	0	23	8
Y8	7	4	6	3	8	48
Y9	5	12	1	0	2	26
Y10	0	3	7	3	4	7
Y11	0	0	3	3	1	1
Total	120	85	107	69	168	160

Table 2

Year Group	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Y2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Y4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y5	1	1	0	0	0	0
Y6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Y7	0	1	0	0	2	2
Y8	1	3	0	0	4	3
Y9	0	0	0	0	11	4
Y10	0	2	0	1	5	16
Y11	1	4	1	0	3	11
Total	3	11	1	1	25	39

Table 3

Year Group	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Y3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y7	1	1	3	0	1	0
Y8	2	2	1	2	3	0
Y9	2	4	3	3	5	1
Y10	1	1	3	2	8	2
Y11	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	7	8	10	7	18	4