

## Freedom of Information – Response – 27174

This is a freedom of information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide the following information you hold pertaining to placements in independent special schools (day placements only) for children and young people (aged 3–19).

- Question 1 – Number of placements: independent special schools (day placements only)  
 The total number of children and young people (aged 3–19) placed in independent special schools (day placements only) as of 31 March 2025, by annual placement fee for the 2024/25 financial year (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025). Please complete the table below.
- Please include only placements commissioned or funded by the local authority (either solely or jointly).
  - Where placements are co-funded, please include those where the local authority is the primary funder (≥50%).
  - For co-funded placements please report the total annual placement fee (i.e. the full cost of the placement), not just the local authority’s contribution. If this is not possible, please confirm, and if feasible, indicate the number of co-funded placements included within the response.
  - Please exclude residential placements.

Total number of placements for financial year paid to date.

Fee range	Less than £30,000	£30,000-£39,999	£40,000-£54,999	£55,000-£69,999	£70,000-£84,999	£85,000-£99,999	£100,000-£124,999	£125,000+
No. of placements	123	77	86	90	82	65	8	Less than 5

### Question 2 – Fee structure

Of the placements included in Question 1, please indicate whether your authority records information on the fee structure for placements. If so, please provide:

Please provide your best estimate where exact classification is not recorded.

Please see table below

Metric	Number
Placements where the fee typically remains the same from one year to the next (i.e. no standard annual uplift is applied)	
Placements where the fee typically increases annually using a standard uplift (e.g. inflation-linked or pre-agreed annual increases)	

Placements where fees are usually reviewed and renegotiated on a case-by-case basis each year (e.g. not subject to a standard annual uplift)	All providers are able to request annual increases as per terms and conditions within the NASS contract.
Unknown / not recorded.	

Question 3 – Average annual fee uplift (if available)

*If readily available, please provide an estimate of the average percentage change in annual fees of existing placements between:*

- 2023/24 (year ending 31 March 2024), and
- 2024/25 (year ending 31 March 2025)

*This can be provided as:*

- an average across all placements, or
- an average across a representative subset of placements

*If exact calculation is not available, please provide your best estimate based on your records or commissioning experience.*

*If this information is not held, please confirm.*

2023-24	7.6%
2024-25	6%