

Freedom of Information – Response – 27490

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

Please provide the following information relating to referrals for alternative provision made by Thomas Mills High School.

Please be advised that this response relates to alternative provision commissioned or arranged by the Council. It does not include placements in specialist schools named within an Education, Health and Care Plan unless these are commissioned as alternative provision.

Where the number of pupils is very small, we have considered the risk of indirectly identifying individual children, particularly when combined with other information (such as school, year group, and placement type).

In line with the data protection principles under the UK GDPR and Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (personal information exemption), some figures have been withheld or presented in a limited way (e.g. as “less than 5”) where disclosure could reasonably lead to identification.

This approach ensures that individual children cannot be identified, particularly given the small cohort and the specificity of the request.

For each academic year from September 2020 to the present, please provide:

1. The number of pupils referred by Thomas Mills High School for alternative provision.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Referrals to AP school	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	0

2. The number of those pupils placed in alternative provision outside Suffolk.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) do not place pupils in alternative provision outside of Suffolk.

3. The number placed in Cambridgeshire.

Suffolk County Council do not place in Cambridgeshire AP schools.

4. Where placements were made in Cambridgeshire, please identify the provider or school (where disclosure would not identify an individual child).

N/A

5. The legal basis for each placement (for example, Section 19 Education Act 1996, EHCP placement, or other arrangement), where this information is held in summary form.

We aren't able to distinguish between legal basis on which schools have referred beyond

permanent exclusion. The data does not exist distinguishing legal basis on which schools have referred beyond permanent exclusion.

Reason	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Permanent exclusion (Section 19)	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0
School referral (Combination of referral off-site to improve behaviour, early intervention through graduated response, and support for medical needs)	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	0

6. Any policy or guidance used by Suffolk County Council when deciding whether to commission alternative provision outside the county.

SCC do not commission alternative provision outside of Suffolk.

Please note:

NsAP (Non School Alternative Provision) is not “referred by school” in the same way, therefore potentially NsAP is not included here in the scope of the question. However please see below points:

In addition to school-commissioned alternative provision, Suffolk County Council may also commission non-school alternative provision (NsAP) for individual pupils, including those on roll at mainstream schools.

The Council does not hold information on NsAP placements in a format that allows reporting by referring school for the requested period. As such, we are unable to identify any historic NsAP placements specifically linked to Thomas Mills High School.

Current data indicates that Suffolk County Council is not presently directly funding any NsAP placements for pupils on roll at Thomas Mills High School. However, schools may also independently commission non-school alternative provision using their own funding arrangements, including High Needs Funding.

Please refer to the following publicly available directory:

[Unregistered Alternative Provision Directory](#)