

## Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool (DfE)

Derbyshire County Council will no longer be producing the benchmarking reports as in previous years, as the Department for Education (DfE) now produces their own benchmarking tool which can be found on their website: [Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool](#) (GOV.UK).

However, we have created a guide to walk you through the steps on how to use their benchmarking tool to get similar reports to what we used to produce.

- Click **Start now**:



- Click **School or academy**:

### What are you looking for?

- ☒ School or academy
- ☐ Trust
- ☐ Local authority

Continue

- Start typing in your school name or URN and click the search button. It will load the data for your school.

### Search for a school or academy

Search by name, address, postcode or unique reference number (URN)

 A white rectangular search input field followed by a blue square button containing a white magnifying glass icon.

- Once your school's data has loaded, scroll down to the '**Benchmarking and planning tools**' section and select '**Benchmark spending**':

#### Benchmarking and planning tools

##### **Benchmark spending**

Benchmark spending against similar schools or other schools of your choice.

##### [Benchmark pupil and workforce data](#)

Benchmark pupil and workforce data against other schools.

##### [Benchmark IT spending](#)

This cost category has been broken down into 7 sub categories to give a more detailed view of IT spending.

##### [Curriculum and financial planning](#)

Measure expected curriculum spending and staffing structure.

Requires login

- It will automatically show various graphs of 29 comparable schools, plus your own. Please note that these are schools across the country, including academies, and are not limited to Derbyshire as you may be used to if you have used Derbyshire County Council's benchmarking tool in the past.
- You can view various data including:
  - Total expenditure
  - Teaching and Teaching support staff
  - Non-educational support staff and services
  - Educational supplies
  - Educational ICT
  - Premises and staff services
  - Utilities
  - Administrative supplies
  - Catering staff services
  - Other costs
- You can use the filters on the left-hand side to target specific areas.
- You can change between viewing the data as a chart or table and you can compare by:
  - £ per unit
  - Actuals
  - % of expenditure
  - % of income

|                                        |                                         |                                      |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| View as                                | Compare by                              |                                      |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Chart | <input type="text" value="£ per unit"/> | <input type="button" value="Apply"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Table            |                                         |                                      |

- You can save the chart images and also download the table data:

[Save chart images](#)
[Download page data](#)

## To create your own set of schools to compare against:

- Click on the Create or save your own set of schools link (shown below):

### Benchmark spending

This school's data covers the financial year April 2024 to March 2025 consistent financial reporting return (CFR).

#### How data is presented

To make the data easier to read, we have:

- only shown data from schools with positive expenditure
- highlighted schools with partial data on the charts and in the table

You can:

- [view the 2 sets of similar schools we've chosen](#) to benchmark this school's spending against
- [create or save your own set of schools to benchmark against](#)
- [change the data](#) for this school

- Click **Continue**:

### Choose your own set of schools

Use this to choose which schools [REDACTED] Primary School is benchmarked against.

**Continue**

- You then need to select how you want to choose your set of schools, if you know the specific names of schools you want to compare against, you can select '**By Name**'.
- However, select '**By characteristic**' if you wish to select, for example, **maintained primary schools in Derbyshire**:

### How do you want to choose your set of schools?

You can only select schools who have made a submission in the current year.

☐

By name

☒

By characteristic

For example, number of pupils or building size.

**Continue**

- Then make the selections you wish to view. However, this example will be to show **maintained primary schools in Derbyshire**:

## Choose characteristics to find matching schools

### Default characteristics

#### School types

- ☒ Maintained schools
- ☐ Academies
- ☐ Both

#### School categories

- ☐ Nursery
- ☒ Primary
- ☐ Secondary
- ☐ Pupil referral units
- ☐ Alternative provision schools
- ☐ Special
- ☐ University technical college
- ☐ All through
- ☐ Post 16

#### Local authorities

- ☐ All local authorities
- ☒ This school's local authority only  
(Derbyshire)
- ☐ Choose a local authority or authorities

### Additional characteristics

- ☒ Number of pupils
- ☐ Eligibility for free school meals (FSM)
- ☐ Pupils with special educational needs (SEN)
- ☐ London weighting
- ☐ Average building age
- ☐ Gross internal floor area
- ☐ Number of schools within trust
- ☐ Schools in deficit
- ☐ Part of a private finance initiative
- ☐ Number of pupils in sixth form
- ☐ Key stage 2 progress
- ☐ Key stage 4 progress

Continue

- Click '**Create a set using these schools**':

## Schools successfully matched

We matched 238 schools, but these are the 29 closest matches to [REDACTED] Primary School using the characteristics you selected.

They are all:

- maintained schools
- primary schools
- schools in the Derbyshire local authority area

[Change characteristics and create a new set](#)

Create a set using these schools

- Please be patient whilst the data loads as this can take some time:  
**Generating benchmarking data**



This may take a minute or two.

**Success**

**You are now benchmarking against your own set of schools**

[View and change your set of schools](#)

[Change back to the sets of schools we chose](#)

- You can now click on Benchmark spending again to view the newly selected schools.