

BUSHBURY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS 2020/21 DATA

What is benchmarking?

Maintained schools and academies are responsible for spending almost £54 billion of public funds each year and are required to demonstrate value for money to parents, auditors, and regulators. In order to prove that this money is well spent and is being used to achieve the best outcome for children it is necessary to compare finances through benchmarking.

Benchmarking is the comparison of your financial data to schools that are statistically similar. Results can be used to assess the quality and impact of your school's services. Benchmarking is useful when making financial decisions, it can be used to identify whether a school is achieving its targets in key areas.

The Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) describes the importance of benchmarking, selecting accurate comparators and writing a meaningful action plan. To fully achieve SFVS, governors must analyse the benchmarking results and agree the appropriate action.

Data Presented

The Benchmarking website has been accessed to gather data regarding income and expenditure for a range of other similar size and phase schools on a Local and National basis. The latest benchmarking data available on this website is for financial year 2020/21.

The website address is;

<https://schools-financial-benchmarking.service.gov.uk/>

The attached benchmarking charts show a range of areas including staffing, expenditure, income, and grants. Expenditure has been compared on the percentage of total expenditure spent, and income on the percentage of total income received.



Benchmarking

Benchmarking was completed by comparing Bushbury Hill Primary School against local and national schools using the following criteria: -

Local Schools – 14 matches (please refer to the Local Schools comparator list)

- **School Phase:** Primary Schools
- **School Type:** Maintained
- **Urban/Rural location:** Conurbation
- **Number of Pupils:** 222 - 359 (Bushbury Hill – 295.5 pupils)

National Schools – 14 matches (please refer to the National Schools comparator list)

- **School Phase:** Primary Schools
- **School Type:** Maintained
- **Urban/Rural location:** Conurbation
- **Number of Pupils:** 225 - 366 (Bushbury Hill – 295.5 pupils)
- **Pupils with EAL:** 7% - 25% (Bushbury Hill – 16%)
- **Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals:** 51.5% - 69.5% (Bushbury Hill – 60.5%)
- **Pupils with a statement of SEN or EHCP:** 0% – 11% (Bushbury Hill – 2%)



<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>LOCAL BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS</u>	<u>NATIONAL BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
Salary Expenditure			
E01 - Teaching Staff	Spend on teaching staff is the lowest when compared to local comparable schools.	Spend on teaching staff is one of the lowest when compared to national comparable schools.	No action required - This does not give cause for concern. School employ teachers based on the needs of the school and pupils.
E02, E10, E26 - Supply Staff (includes Supply Teaching Staff, Supply Teacher Insurance & Agency Supply Costs)	Overall results in these areas were a below average percentage of spend.	Overall results in these areas were below average.	No action required - This does not give cause for concern. School use supply staff based on the needs of the school and pupils.
E03 - Education Support Staff	Spend is towards the higher percentage in this area.	Spend is one of the higher percentages when compared nationally.	No action required - This does not give cause for concern. School employ teaching assistants based on the needs of the school and pupils. Schools with a lower spend may use supply staff to cover this area – see above analysis for supply staff.
E04 - Premises Staff	Spend is below average.	Spend is above average.	No action required – see E14.
E05 - Admin Staff	Compared with other local schools spend is showing as an average percentage.	Compared with other national schools spend is below average.	No action required.



E07, E08, E09, E11 - Other Staff Costs -Lunchtime and extended schools staff – also Includes Indirect employee expenses, staff training & staff related insurance (maternity)	Overall spend is below average.	Overall National results in these areas show that expenditure is the highest.	No action required - Comparable schools with a lower spend may not facilitate a before and/or after school provisions (staff related to this provision would be paid via this area).
Expenditure Areas			
E12, E13 - Maintenance and Improvement – includes grounds maintenance, buildings maintenance & improvement	Overall expenditure is below average.	Overall spend is below average in these areas when compared to national schools.	No action required - Buildings Maintenance & Improvement expenditure can fluctuate depending on specific projects taking place at specific times across different financial years.
E14 - Cleaning and Caretaking	Results show spend is above average when compared at local level.	Spend is the highest in comparison to other national schools.	No action required - School buy into an SLA for their cleaning services. Other schools with a lower spend may employ their own cleaning staff which would be paid out of staffing area E04 rather than E14.
E15 - Water & Sewerage	Results show spend is below average in comparison to other local schools.	Spend is just above average nationally.	No action required.



E16 - Energy	Results show spend is one of the lowest.	National results are the same as local results.	No action required.
E18 – Other Occupation Costs	Spend in this area is average.	Spend is showing as average results.	No action required.
E19, E20 – Educational Supplies	Overall spend in these areas are below average in comparison to other local schools.	Overall spend is below average.	No action required - Learning Resources and ICT spend can fluctuate depending on specific projects and/or equipment needs throughout different financial years.
E22 – Admin Supplies	Spend in this area is below average.	Spend is below average at national level.	No action required.
E23 – Premises Insurance	Spend is one of the highest when compared locally.	Spend is below average when compared nationally.	No action required - Premises Insurance is a central charge and therefore not negotiable.
E25 – Catering expenditure	Expenditure is the highest percentage of spend against comparator schools.	One of the higher percentages when compared nationally.	School is currently in year 3 of their catering contract with Miquill Catering (year 2 results showing).
E27, E28 – Bought in Professional Services	Spend in these areas are below average when compared locally.	Spend in this area is in the lower percentage when compared nationally.	Service Level Agreements continue to be reviewed on an annual basis, to ensure they offer value for money and meet the needs of the school.



Income			
I01, I06, I07 – Direct Grants	Funding received is below average when compared to other local schools.	Funding received is above average when compared to other national schools.	No action required – Delegated funding is driven by pupil numbers.
I03, I05 – Targeted Grants	Highest income results found.	Average results found.	No action required - Funding is dependent on eligible SEN and Pupil Premium pupil numbers.
I08 – Income from Facilities & Services	No income banked and one of the lowest in comparison with other local schools.	No income banked and one of the lower schools when compared nationally.	No action required – Services were limited or unavailable due to Covid19 however, schools with a higher percentage could have had a lettings service in place to increase income.
I09 – Income from Catering	Income banked is below average.	Income banked is one of the highest.	No action required – income was limited due to the impact of Covid19.
I12 – Contributions to Visits	Income banked was nil and one of the lowest.	Income banked was nil and one of the lowest.	No action required – School visits were limited or non-existent due to Covid19.
I18 – Community Grants – PE & Sports Grant / Universal Infant Free School Meals	The school is showing as one of the lower income percentages for local results.	The school is showing as below average for national results.	No action required – Funding is dependent on eligible pupil numbers.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overall, the majority of areas appear a fair reflection when compared with income and expenditure levels on a local and national basis and therefore no action is required.

There are areas when compared at a local and national level the expenditure appears particularly high or low. Consideration should be given to these areas and appropriate action taken if deemed required. For Bushbury Hill Primary School these areas are;

Catering Expenditure - School continue to have meetings with Miquill to review proposed costs in preparation for the year ahead. The outcome is reported and discussed at Governor meetings.

Brought in Professional Services - Service Level Agreements will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis, to ensure they offer value for money and meet the needs of the school.

Governors should take into account that any decisions made due to the benchmarking analysis will need careful consideration in conjunction with the school's budget forecast.

