

## **BUSHBURY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS 2023-24 DATA**

#### **What is benchmarking?**

Maintained schools and academies are responsible for spending almost £60.7 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 spending against similar schools. The latest benchmarking data available on this website is for financial year 2023-24.

The website address is;

[Your school - Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/your-school-financial-benchmarking-and-insights-tool)

This school data covers the financial year April 2023 to March 2024 from the consistent financial reporting return (CFR). Spending has been compared on the total percentage of expenditure.



## **Benchmarking**

Benchmarking was completed by comparing Bushbury Hill Primary School against 2 sets of 29 similar schools using the following criteria: -

**Running cost categories** – 29 matches (please refer to the running cost comparator list)

- **School Phase:** Primary Schools
- **Number of Pupils:** 171 - 298 (Bushbury Hill – 249 pupils)
- **Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals:** 59.4% - 67.3% (Bushbury Hill – 63.8%)
- **Pupils with a statement of SEN or EHCP:** 16.7% – 34.3% (Bushbury Hill – 27.6%)

**Building cost categories** – 29 matches (please refer to the building cost comparator list)

- **School Phase:** Primary Schools
- **Number of Pupils:** 143 - 522 (Bushbury Hill – 249 pupils)
- **Gross internal floor area**
- **Average age of buildings**



<b><u>AREA OF SPEND</u></b>	<b><u>RUNNING COST CATAGORY</u></b>	<b><u>BUILDING COST CATAGORY</u></b>	<b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u></b>
<b>Salary Expenditure</b>			
<b>E01 - Teaching Staff</b>	Spend on teaching staff is the above average when compared to other comparable schools.		No action required - This does not give cause for concern. School employ teachers based on the needs of the school and pupils. In addition, most staff have reached or are approaching the top of their pay grade.
<b>E03 - Education Support Staff</b>	Spend is above average in this area.		No action required - This does not give cause for concern. School employ teaching assistants based on the needs of the school and pupils.
<b>E04 - Premises Staff</b>		Spend is below average.	No action required – see E14.
<b>E05 - Admin Staff</b>	Compared with other schools spend is showing as a below average percentage.		No action required – schools with a higher spend may employ additional finance and/or office staff as opposed to a finance SLA – see higher spend within E28.
<b>E07 - Other Staff Costs - Lunchtime and extended schools staff</b>	Overall spend is below average.		No action required - Comparable schools with a lower spend may not facilitate before and/or after school provision.



<b>E26 – Agency Supply Staff</b>	Overall results in this area were among the higher percentages of spend.		No action required - This does not give cause for concern. School use supply staff based on the needs of the school and pupils.
<b>Expenditure Areas</b>			
<b>E08 – Indirect Employee Expenses</b>	Results in this area show a below average spend.		No action required.
<b>E09 – Training and Development Costs</b>	Spend in this area is one of the lower percentages.		No action required.
<b>E11 – Staff Related Insurance Costs</b>	Overall expenditure is below average.		No action required – School buy into an SLA for their maternity scheme SLA.
<b>E12 – Buildings Maintenance and Improvement</b>		Overall expenditure is below average.	No action required - Buildings Maintenance & Improvement expenditure can fluctuate depending on specific projects taking place at specific times across different financial years. Bushbury Hill have used devolved capital funding for expenditure in this area.
<b>E13 – Grounds Maintenance and Improvement</b>	Expenditure shows as below average.		No action required – school buy into an SLA for this service.



<b>E14 - Cleaning and Caretaking</b>		Results show spend is above average when compared with other 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 are paid from staffing area E04 rather than E14.
<b>E15 - Water &amp; Sewerage</b>		Spend is the one of the lowest.	No action required.
<b>E16 - Energy</b>		Results show spend is amongst lowest.	No action required.
<b>E18 – Other Occupation Costs</b>	Spend in this area is below average.		No action required.
<b>E19 – Learning Resources (not ICT)</b>	Overall spend in this area is below average in comparison to other schools.		No action required - Learning Resources can fluctuate depending on specific projects and/or equipment needs throughout different financial years.
<b>E20 – ICT Resources</b>	ICT resources are below average.		No action required - ICT resources can fluctuate depending on specific projects and/or equipment needs throughout different financial years.



<b>E22 – Admin Supplies</b>	Spend in this area is below average.		No action required.
<b>E23 – Premises Insurance</b>	Spend is one of the lowest when compared to other schools.		No action required - Premises Insurance is a central charge and therefore not negotiable.
<b>E25 – Catering expenditure</b>	Expenditure is within the higher percentage of spend with comparator schools.		School is currently going through tender for their catering contract, along with a cluster of other Wolverhampton schools.
<b>E27 – Education Consultancy Services</b>	Spend is below average.		<a href="#">See summary of findings below for action and consideration.</a>
<b>E28 – Bought in Professional Services (non-curriculum)</b>	Spend in this area is above average when compared to other schools.		<a href="#">See summary of findings below for action and consideration.</a>



## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Overall, the majority of areas appear a fair reflection when compared with expenditure levels over running and buildings costs, and therefore no action is required.

When areas of expenditure are benchmarked with other running and building costs and appear particularly low or high, consideration should be given to these areas and appropriate action taken if deemed necessary. For Bushbury Hill Primary School these areas are;

**Education Consultancy Services and 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.

