1. The number of pupils currently, or within the last five academic years, described by the Council or its schools as being "hosted" at a school.

The City of Edinburgh Council commenced holding a central record of hostings as part of the Maximising School Attendance Policy – August 2024. Therefore, we hold records for the following years:

2024/25	9 in total	(2 for PS, 7 for HS)
2025/26	9 in total	(3 for PS, 6 for HS)
2026/27	2 to date	(0 for PS, 2 for HS)

2. The Council's definition of the term "hosted" when used in relation to a pupil.

A hosting formally transfers a pupil to a placement in an alternative City of Edinburgh school on a temporary basis with a view to enrolment in the hosting school.

3. The circumstances or reasons for which a pupil may be described as being "hosted" rather than being formally enrolled at or attending the school in the usual manner.

A hosting arrangement is a planned strategy which can be considered in exceptional circumstances for children and young people who are finding it difficult to maintain a placement in their current school. A hosting should only be considered in exceptional circumstances a part of a wider package of support and there is agreement that a new school environment may lead to improvements in attendance, wellbeing, safety, relationships, and attainment/ achievement.

4. The Council's policy, guidance or procedures relating to pupils who are being "hosted", including any criteria used when deciding that this arrangement is appropriate.

This arrangement should take place over a time limited period and if considered successful the pupil should be enrolled at the host school permanently without delay.

A hosting should only be considered in exceptional circumstances a part of a wider package of support and should consider:

The evidence that a wide range of strategies have been tried for a sustained period prior to considering a hosting and that the Team Around the Child is in agreement that a new school environment may lead to improvements in attendance, wellbeing, safety, relationships, and attainment/ achievement.

The child/ young person and parent's views; their motivation and engagement will be a key factor in success.

Practical considerations e.g. how the child/ young person will be supported to travel to the host school.

A realistic opportunity of the child/ young person returning to their base school if the hosting is either successful or unsuccessful.

A hosting as a positive strategy to support children and young people.

A hosting is *not* appropriate:

If the child/ young person has moved to the host school's catchment area.

As a condition of consideration of re-admission to the base school after exclusion.

When there has been a recent failed hosting.

As a strategy to address parenting difficulties and/ or the child's behaviour out-with the school context.

Hosting arrangements are not short-term punitive placements. Hosting arrangements should be planned with an expectation of a permanent move.

Hosting Arrangements:

Hosting arrangements are agreed and organised between the Head Teacher of the base school and the Head Teacher of the host school.

The availability of a hosting arrangement should be known prior to discussion with parents and the child or young person, and a receiving school has the right to refuse a hosting arrangement.

Professionals should not raise unrealistic expectations prior to a hosting arrangement being confirmed.

All arrangements must be planned for using the GIRFEC framework with the base school, parent, child or young person and agencies involved in agreement with a hosting arrangement option.

The reason for the hosting must be linked to the SHANARRI indicators.

If the parents or the child or young person are not in favour of a host arrangement then alternative options should be discussed through the GIRFEC framework.

the parents must be able and willing to support the host arrangement (including transportation, this will not be provided by education) and see this as a measure to resolve the difficulties presented/experienced by the child/ young person.

Supports for the child/ young person:

Expectations of hosted pupil and hosting school shared e.g. if attendance in the base school was of concern, set realistic expectations in host school.

A copy of their hosting timetable.

Implementation of reasonable adjustments and supports related to additional support needs.

Identification of the key staff in school who will offer support.

The possibility of involving the child in a department, activity, or club, asking a peer to be a buddy particularly break and the lunch time.

Support from Learning Community Inclusion Support teachers or other school partners as appropriate.

If the hosting arrangement is agreed:

The Education Wellbeing Team are made aware of the hosting arrangement; ewsmailbox@ea.edin.sch.uk

The base school will be responsible for ensuring that all necessary information is collated for transfer to the host school – the base school copy the pupil record, pre-record their attendance as OAT and change when attendance to accurately record pupil attendance when it is received weekly from the host school.

There will be an agreed period for the hosting (normally a minimum of eight weeks and maximum of sixteen weeks) only in exceptional cases will the timescale extend beyond this period.

The Named Person from the base school will liaise with the Named Person from the host school; attend key meetings and co-ordinate the sharing of information to support the young person's transition.

The GIREC framework is used to monitor the hosting arrangement, there will be regular reviews involving the parent, child, representatives from the base and host schools and any partner services that are involved.

It is the responsibility of the host school to inform the base school of the child's attendance; the hosted pupil should be put on a holding register in the host school with the attendance sent weekly to the base school.

There should be an early review involving the parent, child/young person, representative from the base school and host school and all relevant partners if a hosting shows signs of being unsuccessful before the review date.

The young person must be presented for examination through their base school.

If the hosting is successful and the parent and child agree, the child will be moved permanently onto the roll of the host school.

If a hosting arrangement is to be ceased, the base school assumes responsibility for the education of the child or young person immediately regardless of the timescale within the hosting arrangement and ongoing support for the child or young person should be explored. The copied record should then be ended.

5. Whether a pupil who is being "hosted" remains on the roll of their original school, and how their attendance and educational provision are recorded.

During the period of hosting the child/ young person remains on their base school's roll. The base school is responsible for copying the pupil's record, pre-record their attendance as OAT and change the attendance to the appropriate code when it is received weekly from the host school. Once the record is copied the host school can accurately record the pupil daily attendance.

6. The number of pupils who have been "hosted" due to behavioural, disciplinary, safeguarding or other concerns, with the numbers broken down by reason where this information is held.

We do not hold a record of this information.

7. The number of pupils who have subsequently returned to their original school following a period of being "hosted", and the number who have transferred permanently to another educational setting.

We do not hold a record of this information.

8. Any guidance provided to schools regarding the circumstances in which "hosting" should be considered, including whether it can be used as an alternative to exclusion, managed transfer or a change of school placement.

A hosting should only be considered in exceptional circumstances a part of a wider package of support and should consider:

The evidence that a wide range of strategies have been tried for a sustained period prior to considering a hosting and that the Team Around the Child is in agreement that a new school environment may lead to improvements in attendance, wellbeing, safety, relationships, and attainment/ achievement.

The child/ young person and parent's views; their motivation and engagement will be a key factor in success.

Practical considerations e.g. how the child/ young person will be supported to travel to the host school.

A realistic opportunity of the child/ young person returning to their base school if the hosting is either successful or unsuccessful.

A hosting as a positive strategy to support children and young people.

A hosting is *not* appropriate:

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Hosting arrangements are not short-term punitive placements. Hosting arrangements should be planned with an expectation of a permanent move.