

Workshop: compiling data

The mission:

- Learn techniques for working with mass FOI responses
- Learn techniques for compiling exclusive data
- ...and have some stories by the end of the class

What are we learning?

- FOI responses are messy ('dirty data')
- Communication is vital in a team
- Need to make frequent editorial decisions about scope of project
- Need to ensure that is recorded and communicated in the story

First...

- If you have multiple responses, I've already inputted one of them (look for your name in the spreadsheet)
- Listen carefully that's part of the communication bit...

Inputting FOI data: councils

- Find your latest response on WhatDoTheyKnow
- Open the <u>shared spreadsheet</u> on Moodle
- NOTE: It has two sheets for data entry:
 - Pitches
 - Fees
- There is already a row for each FOI you sent

ASK if it's mixed data

- E.g. ranges (they are not numbers)
- We make a decision: enter upper figure

	Number of grass pitches available for hire	Cost (dependent on pitch quality)
2023/24	26	352-398
2022/23	26	333-376
2021/22	26	315-355
2020/21	26	300-335 (no increase due to pandemic)
2019/20	26	300-335
2018/19	26	283-316

ASK if it's complicated

	A	В
1	FOOTBALL - Saturday	Charge 2018/19
2		
3	Senior Match & changing facilities	£86.00
4	Junior Match & changing facilities	£37.50
5	Small Sided Match & changing facilities	£21.00
6	Senior Match no changing facilities	£43.00
7	Junior Match no changing facilities	£27.50
8	Small Sided Match & no changing facilities	£15.50
9		
0	Seasonal Licence* with facilities	
1	Senior	£1,942.50
2	Junior	£845.25
3	Small Sided Match & changing facilities	£483.00
4	Seasonal Licence* without facilities	
5	Senior	£829.50
6	Junior	£404.25
7	Small Sided Match & no changing facilities	£199.50
8		
9	FOOTBALL - Sunday (AM = game finishes upto & including 11.59am; PM = game starts from 12	noon onwards)
0		
1	Senior Match & changing facilities - PM	£108.00
2	Senior Match and changing Faculties - AM	£124.00
3	Junior Match & changing facilities	£49.25
4	Small Sided Match & changing facilities	£26.25
5		
6	Senior Match no changing facilities - PM	£54.50

ASK ANYWAY*.

Our notes so far:

- "The analysis looked at pitches and fees for 11-a-side pitches only. Where pitches were allocated to senior or junior football, we looked at junior football only.
- "Where there were different charges for pitches with and without changing facilities, we used fees for pitches without changing facilities.
- "Where there were different charges for different days or locations, we included all days and locations.
- "Where a range was given rather than a single number, we used the uppermost value.

Now start entering...

- We are only going to enter data for 11v11 pitches
- If they have no information (because they didn't have any info) add details in Notes and <u>let me know</u>
- If they haven't responded they are breaking the law: send a follow up message (WDTK will help).
 Add details in Notes and <u>let me know</u>.
- If they provided information enter it.
- CALL ME OVER IF YOU ARE UNSURE IN ANY WAY

Then enter fees data

- Again, we are only going to enter data for 11v11 pitches
- You might need extra rows for different categories/pitches
- CALL ME OVER IF YOU ARE UNSURE IN ANY WAY

What do we have?

- We can now calculate change
- We can write a SUM formula: total pitches per year etc.

Midlands football pitches drop by X in 5 years

The number of football pitches across the East and West Midlands has dropped by at least ___, according to an investigation/analysis by Birmingham Eastside.

. . .

The figures — based on responses to XX Freedom of Information requests — revealed...

or: Call for football pitches to be protected from cuts

A Midlands football association/club director/other person of authority has called for _____ after an exclusive analysis by Birmingham Eastside revealed the number of pitches has dropped by X% in five years.

. . .

The figures — based on responses to XX Freedom of Information requests — revealed...

Previously...

We compiled our own data

- Which suppliers schools recommended. Are they the cheapest?
- Should be on their website's uniform policy
- So we searched for the websites...

Statutory guidance

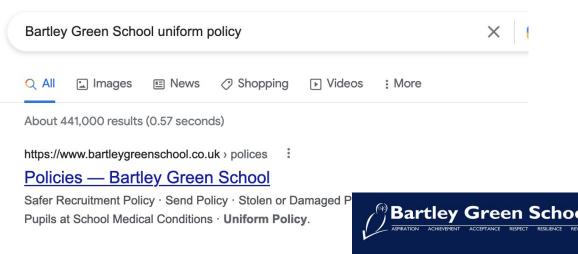
Cost of school uniforms

Where a school's uniform policy includes a branded item, the governing board should ensure a written contract is in place with their supplier for these items.

Governing boards should be able to demonstrate that they have obtained the best value for money from suppliers. Any savings negotiated with suppliers should be passed on to parents. Governing boards should not enter into cashback arrangements.

Governing boards should ensure that suppliers continue to provide good value for money throughout the duration of the contract.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms/cost-of-school-uniforms





SCHOOL CANTEEN
TERM DATES
SEND
SEND UPDATES
CAREERS STRATEGY
CAREERS WEBSITE
LINKS
ADMISSIONS

OUR CORE VALUES

SCHOOL CALENDAR

School Policies (click to view)

HOME

INFORMATION

SAFE

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

ATTENDANCE POLICY

BEHAVIOUR AND EXCLUSION POLICY

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS

DATA PROTECTION POLICY



School Uniform Policy

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qb4 Af5o4uR-d7RhK2YBxalHx7_HGLY my/view

7. School Uniform Suppliers

The suppliers below stock Bartley Green School ties and uniform items that have the Bartley Green School logo, as well as non-branded uniform items:

- Clive Mark (Bearwood), 4-5 Three Shires Oak Road, Bearwood, B67 5AX
 Tel: 0121 429 4244 www.clivemark.co.uk/collections/bartley-green-school
- Ace Embroidery https://bgs.ace-online.co.uk/catalogue
- Kids Essential (Northfield), 762 Bristol Road South, Northfield, B31 2NN
 Tel: 0121 477 0736 www.kidsessentialsschoolwearbirmingham.co.uk/bartley-green-school-uniform-2/
- 3Q Sports online only www.3Qsports.co.uk (non-branded/no logo PE kit only)

Uniform items requiring a school logo are kept to a minimum, many items can therefore be purchased from other stores such as supermarkets and high street shops.

Non-branded/no logo PE kit items are acceptable as long as they are in the same colour and style of BGS items. These non-branded/no logo items are more affordable and can be purchased from Clive Mark, Kids Essential and 3Q Sports.

8. Uniform Assistance

The school holds second-hand school uniforms in for parent/carers to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to reception. Parent/carers are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it. This service is stock dependent.

9. Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Some Birmingham parents pay over £20 for a single PE shirt

Updated: Jan 15, 2023

New data collected from 52 Birmingham secondary schools shows a £20 gap between the cheapest and most expensive PE shirts.

https://nathanjhogg.wixsite.com/my site/post/some-birmingham-parents -pay-over-20-for-a-single-pe-shirt Note: headline needs rewriting for clarity (intro is clearer) - the angle is not that they pay "over £20", it's that some parents pay £20 more than parents in other schools to kit their kids





Schools overcharging for uniforms in Birmingham as worst are named

Schools turn blind eye to government guidance for parents to receive best value for money on uniforms



Several schools in Birmingham are charging up to £30 for pieces of school uniform, a data investigation by the **Local Democracy Reporting Service** (LDRS) has found.

The investigation, in collaboration with Birmingham City University, shows Bishop Vesey grammar school, based in **Sutton Coldfield**, are charging parents £28 for a training shirt. The price is three times as much as schools such as Hodge Hill College, in Washwood Heath, who charge a minimum fee of £6.50.

Labour says cap on school uniform items could save families £50 a child

Government plans to limit branded student kit to three articles, plus a tie, from September 2026 in England



https://www.theguardian.com/educa tion/2025/jan/08/labour-says-cap-o n-school-uniform-items-could-savefamilies-50-a-child

Now to compile more data

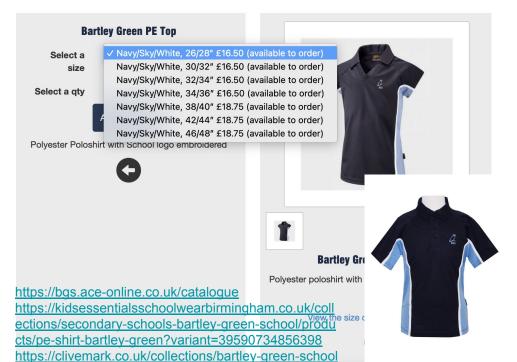
- Who is most expensive now?
- Who has the cost of living hit most?
- Our scope: "sports kit" is too broad.
 Look for "PE top/shirt"
- Price may differ depending on size, so need MIN and MAX prices

	Α	A B C		D	Е	F	
1	School name	Inputted by	Item URL	MIN Price of training shirt	MAX Price of training shirt	Gender	c
5	Ark St Alban's Academy	РВ	https://clivemark.co.uk/products/ark-st-albans-academy-pe-t-shirt-1	8.49	8.49	all	а
6	Aston Manor Academy	РВ	https://www.gogna.me/aston-mano r-academy-pe-polo/	14	18	all	а
7	Aston University Engineering Academy	РВ	https://clivemark.co.uk/collections/ aston-uni-engineering-academy/pr oducts/aston-university-engineerin g-academy-yr10-11-pe-polo		19.49	all	а
8	Bartley Green School	РВ	https://www.3qsports.co.uk/brands/joma-football-teamwear/joma-desert-cotton-t-shirt-101739900-7xs?code=101739.350-XS	5.94	6.99	all	а
9			https://bgs.ace-online.co.uk/catalo				

Inputting: school kit costs

- In <u>the spreadsheet</u>, put your name down against at least two schools (to stop someone else entering data in the same rows).
- One school can have rows for multiple suppliers, so put your name for each supplier
- Visit the kit link, and enter the current prices for the smallest and largest kit

	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J
1	Your name	School name	Website	Supplier name (one per row)	Supplier URL	MIN Price of training shirt	MAX Price of training shirt	Item URL	Notes	
2	Paul Bradshaw	Bartley Green School	https://www.bartleygreenschool	3Q Sports	https://www.3qspe	6.29		https://www.3qsp	No 'unbranded'	option - Joma
3	Paul Bradshaw	Bartley Green School	https://www.bartleygreenschool	Kids Essential	https://kidsessent	17		https://kidsesser	Official top	
4	Paul Bradshaw	Bartley Green School	https://www.bartleygreenschool	Ace Embroidery	https://bgs.ace-or	16.5	19.5	https://bgs.ace-c	Official top	
5	Paul Bradshaw	Bartley Green School	https://www.bartleygreenschool	Clive Mark	https://clivemark.o	20.49		https://clivemark	Official top	
6	Paul Bradshaw	North Birmingham Acade	mv							



BARTLEY GREEN PE POLO SHIRT £20.49

PE SHIRT - BARTLEY GREEN

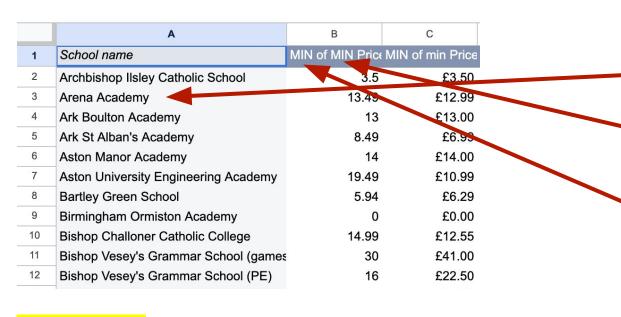
£17.00

Tax included.

SIZE

26/28	30/32	34/36
38/40	42/44	46/48

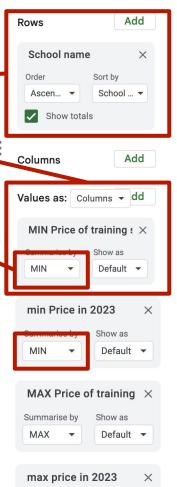




Pivot table:

- Rows: school name
- Values: MIN price, MIN in 2023
 - Change 'Summarise by' to MIN to show lowest value

This allows us to compare the minimum price for each school in 2024 with the minimum prices in 2023

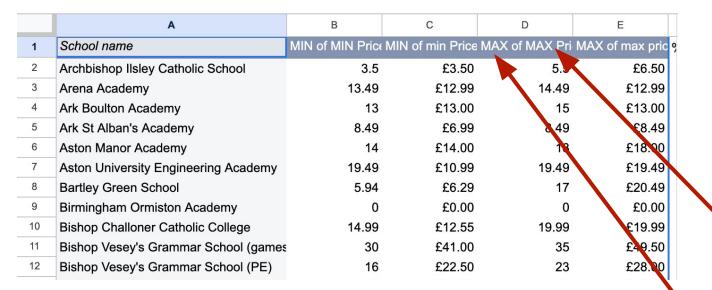


Summarise by

MAX

Show as

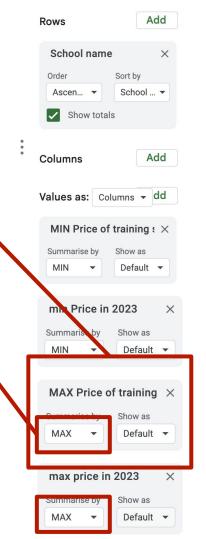
Default -

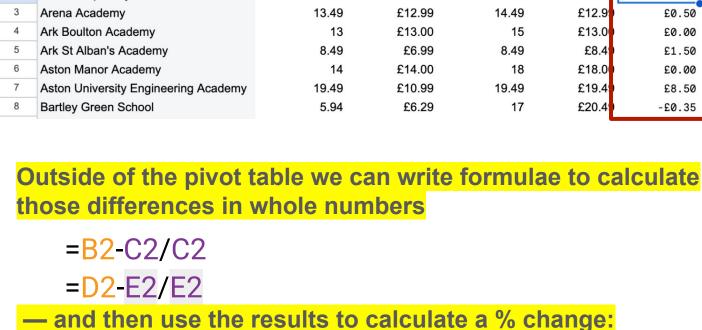


...Expanding the pivot table:

- More Values: MAX price, MAX in 2023
 - Change 'Summarise by' to MAX to show highest value

This allows us to compare the max price for each school in 2024 with the minimum prices in 2023





В

3.5

C

MIN of MIN Price MIN of min Price MAX of MAX Pri MAX of max pr

£3.50

D

5.5

Е

£6.5

G

£0.00

£0.50

£0.00

£1.50

90.03

£8.50

-£0.35

Н

0.00%

3.85%

0.00%

21.46%

0.00%

77.34%

-5.56%

-15.38%

11.55%

15.38%

0.00%

0.00%

0.00%

-17.03%

£ change MIN £ change MAX % change MIN % change MAX

-£1.00

£1.50

£2.00

£0.00

£0.00

£0.00

-£3.49

F2

▼ fx =B2-C2

Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School

=F2/C2

=G2/E2

School name

A

Next steps:

You have the information to write at least 4-5 stories:

- 2 x change stories for each FOI (pitches + fees)
- 2 x change or ranking stories for all the FOI data
- A change or ranking story for the PE kit price data

Use other stories as a template to guide you. **Add vis, quotes, background context**. Send me a draft!

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Reading & directed study:

- Read one or more of the tip sheets on Moodle (they're from the New York Times)
- Prepare material for the next class: a story draft, data analysis, draft visualisation, etc. Bring your spreadsheets and drafts!

How to: plan a journalism project that needs data entry

6 Replies



This Panorama investigation involved entering data from 144 FOI responses

Data-driven reporting regularly involves some form of data entry — some of the stories I've been involved with, for example, have included <u>entering information from Freedom of Information (FOI) requests</u>, <u>compiling data from documents such as companies' accounts</u>, <u>or working with partners to collect information from a range of sources</u>.



A conversation.

https://onlinejournalismblog.com/2020/01/29/how-to-plan-a-journalism-project-that-needs-data-entry/