

Frequently Asked Questions

Benchmarking

Questions	Answers
I don't know where to start, help?	There are plenty of school benchmarking tools available on the internet and these will help you produce your first benchmarking report. The webinar should help you with this!
My benchmarking suggests my school spends highly in a certain area. Is this definitely a problem?	No. It's definitely something worth investigating but each school is unique and there may be valid reasons why your spend in a certain area could be higher than the average. At it's best, benchmarking suggests questions to be asked and areas to be investigated.
I'd like to calculate my metrics, but I'm put off by all these formulas!	One of the suite of webinars available on School Resource Management is a deep dive into metrics; it would be a good idea to sign up to that as that will give you the required knowledge to calculate your own metrics.
I don't have time to look at everything on the DfE Benchmarking website	No-one does! You can look at graphs for practically everything. It's a good site but stay focused on specific areas of need for your school as well as large areas of spend (staffing costs and stats for example) or areas you've identified from other tools (such as the dashboard of the self-assessment tool.
Why do I care about schools at the other end of the country?	The DfE's research has determined that a national search to find schools most similar to yours in terms of pupil numbers and free school meal percentage are most likely to provide a best match. Geography isn't that much of a factor (London permitting)
What do I do with my benchmarking reports?	Share them with your school leadership as a part of (but not instead of) your regular monitoring activities. This will allow the kind of discussion that the best benchmarking practices allow and thrive from.