

REQUEST | 15835

I would like to request the following information as an FOI request regarding Labour's proposal to introduce a 20% VAT on private school fees:

1. How many school places are currently available in all state schools within your boundaries today, by year group? Please complete the table.
2. How many students do you anticipate moving from private schools to state schools within your boundaries if Labour's proposal to introduce a 20% VAT on private school fees takes effect from September 2024?
3. What preparations will you have in place (from September 2024) to accommodate these students?
4. For SEND students moving from private to state schools because of the VAT proposal, what steps will you take to ensure that they receive at least the same level of support they received in their private school by September 2024?

RESPONSE

1. The table below gives the number of vacancies in each year group based on the pupil population at census point in October.

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Number of Vacant State School Places October Census 2023 (Total)</u>
Reception	409
Year 1	284
Year 2	224
Year 3	212
Year 4	177
Year 5	202
Year 6	109
Year 7	119
Year 8	16
Year 9	126
Year 10	161
Year 11	175
Year 12	151 (across Y12 and Y13)
Year 13	

2. We do not hold details on the number of Wigan children in private schools. Please request this information directly from schools.
3. Based on experience at the point of entry (Reception and Year 7), we do not lose significant numbers of children to private schools. Based on the levels of surplus in the above table, we do not anticipate an issue with accommodating children transferring from private education to state funded provision. Should there be a shortfall in a year group, we will use the Fair Access Protocol to secure places.

4. Children in receipt of an Education Health Care Plan have their needs and provision regularly reviewed through the Annual Review process. Should a child have a change of provision then the EHCP will be amended to reflect this. For children with SEND who do not have an EHCP transitional arrangements will be made between the school the child currently attends and the school they are transferring to. Schools follow the Graduated Approach and the Assess Plan Do Review process. The support received by the child would be needs led.