

Summary points from the analysis of the impact of the proposals on the discretionary elements of the home to school transport provision

Denominational Primary

- It is estimated that 288 of the 640 pupils currently eligible would retain their eligibility given the proposals set out in the consultation. This is equivalent to 45% of current eligible pupils attending denominational primary schools in Kent.
- The pupils most likely to retain their eligibility are pupils from less affluent families, many living on low incomes and reliant on state assistance. In addition, many pupils from rural areas retain their eligibility as they tend to live further than the statutory distance from a school.
- Of the 352 pupils who would no longer be eligible (55% of pupils), those most affected would be those families on middle and high incomes.
- Analysis of equality criteria show the majority of pupils are not negatively impacted. Areas which may warrant further attention are children where English is an additional language as the proportion retaining their eligibility is lower than the proportion of pupils where English is their first language. In addition, the proportion of pupils from an ethnic minority retaining their eligibility is lower than the overall proportion. However, the number of pupils for both of these groups is very small and these figures should be treated with caution.

Denominational Secondary

- 28% of eligible pupils attending denominational schools are from the most affluent families in Kent.
- It is estimated that 664 of the 1,800 pupils currently eligible would retain their eligibility given the proposals set out in the consultation. This is equivalent to 37% of current eligible pupils attending denominational secondary schools in Kent.
- Pupils most affected by the proposed changes are those living in rural areas. Due to their location, they are more likely to live more than 3 miles from a school and therefore maintain their eligibility (albeit to a nearer school).
- A significant proportion of the most affluent also retain their eligibility. Approximately 42% of pupils from the most affluent families in Kent retain their eligibility.
- Of the 1,128 pupils who would no longer be eligible, those most affected would be families on middle to lower incomes.
- Analysis of relevant equality criteria and other criteria including looked after children and free school meals show the majority of pupils in these categories are not negatively impacted by the proposed changes.
- However, for children where English is an additional language the proportion retaining their eligibility is slightly lower than the proportion of pupils where

English is their first language. There may also be some local impact for faith schools amongst Irish and White Eastern European ethnic groups (although number of pupils from ethnic groups are very small and should be treated with caution).

Selective Secondary

- It is estimated that 6,863 pupils attending Selective secondary schools in Kent are eligible for home to school transport. Over 2,500 or 36% are from the most affluent families in Kent.
- It is estimated that 2,664 of those pupils currently eligible would retain their eligibility given the proposals set out in the consultation. This is equivalent to 39% of current eligible pupils attending selective secondary schools in Kent.
- A higher proportion of pupils living in rural areas retain their eligibility as they live more than 3 miles from the nearest school. In addition 40% or 989 pupils from the most affluent families will still be entitled to home to school transport.
- Of the 4,199 pupils who would no longer be eligible (61% of pupils), those most affected would be those families on middle and low incomes, but a significant minority are likely to be from families on low incomes surviving on limited means. This could potentially be mitigated by actively promoting Free School Meals take up for children from low income families.
- Analysis of equality criteria show the majority of pupils are not negatively impacted. Areas which may warrant further attention are children where English is an additional language as the proportion retaining their eligibility is slightly lower than the proportion of pupils where English is their first language. In addition, the proportion of pupils from the ethnic groups White Eastern European and Chinese retaining their eligibility is lower than the overall proportion. However, the number of pupils from ethnic groups is very small and these figures should be treated with caution.

Caveats

All figures are estimates based on a number of variables which have been applied as proxies to establish eligibility such as free school meals, Special Educational Needs Status and approximated distance from a child's postcode to the nearest school.

In addition, the results are based on 87% of current eligible pupils attending denominational secondary schools and 91% of current eligible pupils attending selective secondary schools. This is due to some pupils attending schools outside of Kent, or insufficient data for the pupil in order to determine if they would qualify for eligibility. It is considered the sample size is sufficient to provide estimates.

The most affluent families in Kent are considered to be those classified as the Mosaic segment K&M1. This group is described as 'Kent's most highly educated and financially successful citizens, living sought after locations'.