

SUTTON TRUST

SOCIAL MOBILITY SURVEY

PARTICIPANTS

- GDST SCHOOLS
- FIDS SCHOOLS

QUESTIONS

	Pupils aged 11-16	Sixth form only
Total number of pupils in your school		
% of students estimated to be eligible for Free School Meals (households with an income of less than £16,000)		
% of students from households with an income of less than £16,000 (if known)		
% students on full bursary		
% students on partial bursary		
Total value of financial support provided by your school (to the nearest thousand pounds)		
% students estimated to receive financial support from other sources (e.g. grandparents, charitable foundations)		

RESULTS

- The aim of the survey was to investigate the socioeconomic backgrounds of pupils at independent day schools, and find out what support is available to pupils from less advantaged backgrounds.
- The survey was sent to all FIDS and GDST schools, with a response rate of almost 80%. While this is a high response rate, it is worth noting that there may be a selection bias in those that have responded.

STUDENTS RECEIVING BURSARIES

- When schools were asked for the percentage of students on full bursaries, the average percentage for all schools across all age groups, was 4%. The average percentage of students receiving a partial bursary is 10%, across all age groups. It is worth noting that there are higher proportions of students in the sixth form receiving both full and partial scholarships (5% and 13% respectively) than those in younger year groups (3% full and 6% partial).
- The range between different schools varies significantly. One school has approximately 20% of its students receiving a full bursary, while others have 0%.

TOTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- The amount of financial support available to students also varies significantly between schools. The average support available for those below sixth form is £468,000pa, and to the sixth form is £197,000 pa.
- This ranges from £2.9million in total available at one school, to £185,000 at the other end of the scale. It's worth noting that the range of support available 'per head' of the school population ranges from almost £3,000 to £200.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

- The survey asked schools for the proportion of its students estimated to be eligible for free school meals (ie those with household incomes of less than £16,000). Many schools have responded that they do not collect this information other than for those who receive a full or partial bursary. A significant proportion of schools have responded with information on those who receive a more than 95% bursary, and so receive free school meals. This makes the results difficult to compare between schools and it may be misleading to do so. [For curiosity sake only, of those schools who did provide an estimate or a figure, the average was approximately 3%. This is broadly similar to the figure for Grammar Schools in England].

SUPPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES

- When asked what proportion of students are estimated to receive financial support from other sources, schools also had a variety of responses. Many did not collect any relevant information on this and so were unable to provide an estimate. Others knew how many received funding from charitable trusts, but not from other sources, and other schools made an informed guess.
- Again, this makes it difficult to come up with a conclusion from the figures. [For your information, the average estimate was about 6% where one was made].

CAVEATS

- As discussed above there are many caveats to the data, due to the fact that each school has a unique way of collecting data on this and has provided information to the best of their knowledge. For each question some schools provided estimates, some guesses, some missing answers and some questions weren't applicable to each school.
- Further information on the requirements each schools has for receiving a full bursary may go some way to addressing the question, but many schools simply do not collect this personal financial information on the majority of their pupils and will find answering these questions problematic.