Applying for a free school in wave 14: illustrating the estimated total number of secondary places needed (at planning area level) – 2024/25

Please be aware:
- This map is intended to help free school proposers in wave 14 identify potential areas of basic need.
- The map illustrates the estimated need for school places at phase level.
- The estimated number of places needed that informs this map comes from the school capacity survey 2018 and information held on some places added through centrally funded programmes. The data is therefore a snapshot in time and the basic need picture may well change. You will still need to talk with the local authority to understand the full and up-to-date picture of basic need in the area.
- Figures for Kent and Nottinghamshire may change, subject to changes to forecast data.
- The planning area shapes used in this map are based on data provided by local authorities, but the boundaries are approximations only and may not reflect the size and shape of each planning area exactly.
- The colour-coded thresholds used in this map are illustrative only and are provided to aid proposers in deciding where new schools are most likely to be needed. The department will not necessarily use these thresholds in future work, or for the assessment of applications.
- Please see the ‘How to apply to set up a mainstream free school’ guidance published in January 2019 for more information regarding the data used to produce the maps and the criteria we will use to assess basic need in wave 14.