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# FOUR IN 10 TO QUIT PRIVATE SCHOOL UNDER KEIR'S TAX

Major report finds state sector will be swamped if fees rise

By **Eleanor Harding**  
Education Editor

**LABOUR'S tax raid on private schools would force nearly half of fee-paying pupils into the state system, a report reveals today.**

Sir Keir Starmer yesterday refused to back down on his pledge to charge 20 per cent VAT on independent school fees in the event of Labour winning the General Election.

But a survey of parents with children at private schools suggests as many as 224,000 pupils could leave as a result – double the number previously estimated.

The report said the figures 'seriously undermine Labour's argument that the sector would go through an imposition of VAT on school fees "largely unscathed".'

It suggests the policy, which could be implemented in time for the start of the new school year, will drive up costs for the taxpayer and create even more competition for the best state schools.

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan last night said: 'This is just more proof that Keir

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