

A photograph of three young children, two girls and one boy, smiling and wearing school uniforms. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. A large blue circle is positioned in the center of the page, containing the title text.

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017

---



[www.scis.org.uk](http://www.scis.org.uk)

Company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland no 125368.  
Scottish Charity No SC018033

# About SCIS

The Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) is an educational charity representing and promoting the interests of over 70 independent schools across the country.

## Objectives



TO PROVIDE A PROFESSIONAL AND BESPOKE SERVICE TO MEMBER SCHOOLS THAT IS SUPPORTIVE, RELEVANT AND OF HIGH VALUE



TO REPRESENT, PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE INTERESTS AND IDENTITY OF THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SECTOR – INCLUDING THOSE OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS



TO ENABLE THE SECTOR TO MAKE A WORTHWHILE AND RECOGNISED CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND, THE UK AND BEYOND.

## Service to Schools

- to support member schools in delivering a high quality, values-based education for all pupils
- to provide up-to-date guidance and advice to schools on key political, educational, pastoral, special and additional support needs, legal and financial issues
- to make information accessible to parents and young people, the media, political and community figures and the general public
- to support Governors, Heads, Bursars, teaching and support staff through the SCIS CPD programme
- to provide research to help schools with their education choices, forward planning and marketing strategies.

## Promoting the Sector

- to represent the sector at national, regional and community events concerned with the education, well-being and care of children and young people in Scotland
- to promote the sector to members of the Scottish and UK Government, the Scottish and UK Parliament, the media, national educational and other bodies, in order to foster a better and more informed understanding of the sector
- to highlight and support the particular educational and pastoral responsibilities of special schools
- to promote the sector to parents, challenge misconceptions, to encourage participation and widen access to the sector
- to secure, market and enhance the global reputation of the independent sector – including the promotion of Scotland's boarding schools.

## Service to Education

- to contribute to the development of education in its widest sense for children and young people in Scotland
- to promote excellence in academic and all-round achievement
- to support highly-qualified and well-resourced teaching and support staff
- to defend the independence, autonomy and founding principles of individual institutions
- to engage constructively with employers, further and higher education to ensure the widest choice of positive learner destinations
- to demonstrate the sector's breadth and excellence in curricular and qualification development to support quality improvement with proportionate, informed and responsive inspections.

# Chairman's Statement

**2017 has been a very challenging year for SCIS and indeed the whole independent education sector in Scotland.**

On top of organising and running some 80 courses during the year the team and John Edward in particular have spent many hours trying to persuade Scottish Government not to implement the recommendations of the Barclay Committee to charge full business rates to almost all Schools in the sector. Our arguments to date seem to have made little difference and we now have to wait to see how the new two tier charity system is going to work out all for a £5 mil annual increase in revenues to the Scottish Government. Despite leading a still buoyant independent education sector it would be understandable if our members felt the odds were stacked against them in trying to provide leading independent education at reasonable cost. The challenge for SCIS is to support our members on a limited budget in trying to persuade the public and the Scottish Government that our sector is one worth supporting and indeed nurturing.

Once again it is the duty of the Chairman to record our thanks to all our members in particular to those who sit on our Governing Board for their time and good counsel throughout the year. In addition it is my pleasure to record my thanks to Fiona, Margaret, Alison, Alison and John for all their hard work during the year. Since the end of the year Fiona has retired and we wish her a long and happy retirement. We welcome to the team Claire Burnett and Kirsten Hamilton who have taken over Fiona's duties.



---

**Alan Hartley**

Chairman

# Director/Chief Executive Statement

## **2017 was constructive, productive and instructive for SCIS and the schools we all work for – but not always in a positive way.**

It was constructive in the ongoing work done to extend and diversify the Professional Learning and Development that we can offer the sector. 2017 saw both the accreditation of the Teaching Qualification Practitioner Route (TQPR). Developed with the University of the Highland and Islands (UHI) it provides a bespoke independent PGDE for those seeking full GTCS registration. In addition, a 3-tier mental health pathway was developed for SCIS schools and will be piloted during 2018.

The year was productive in the forms of guidance and assistance extended to schools, including keeping as up-to-date as possible with the implications of the GDPR, and using statistics from schools to provide more tailored research material for marketing, admissions and other school benchmarking.

The year was also instructive in the pit-falls of national politics. Despite calls for co-operation and partnership from the Deputy First Minister, and

an “open mind” towards Business Rates reform, the sector found itself at the end of a government decision that singled 50 bodies – independent schools – out from tens of thousands of others under review. It is a source of great regret that empirical evidence and past efforts counted for little in that process.

That said, it provided SCIS with the opportunity to make crystal clear that those who used business rates as a proxy for their own opposition to the independent sector should take no satisfaction. There is not the slightest chance it – or any other policy - will diminish the dedication, energy and expertise that independent schools and their staff have shown over decades, if not centuries; and there will be no stepping-back from offering choice, diversity and excellence for schools, for families and for Scotland's young people.



---

**John Edward**

Director/Chief Executive

# Achievements and Performance

## SCIS School Statistics<sup>1</sup>

SCIS provides analysis of pupil numbers, staffing levels, examination results, leaver destinations and the financial assistance provided by independent schools – as well as ad hoc research work requested by the Governing Board of SCIS and individual schools. All research findings are published on the SCIS website. The historical and comparative data which SCIS provides helps schools demonstrate their value for money and evaluate their position in a wider context. In 2017:

- SCIS remained equivalent to the eighth largest local authority in terms of pupil numbers in its member schools.
- The independent school sector employed 3,317 in their teaching workforce in Scotland. There are almost 2,500 non-teaching staff including residential care, support and administrative staff.
- Approximately 88% of leavers entered further or higher education.

## Pupil Numbers

At the start of each new academic year SCIS conducts a census to gather data from member schools, which provides an overview of the sector. The analysis of this data is made available to member schools, the public and the press. Facts and statistics about pupil numbers and demographic projections can be downloaded from the SCIS website.

**29,664** CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOLS IN MEMBERSHIP OF SCIS.

**1,545** IN NURSERIES

**10,286** IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**17,833** IN SENIOR SCHOOLS



Pupil numbers in the independent sector remained constant robust with a 0.1% rise since 2016, representing 4.1% of the Scottish school pupil population.

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government statistics for overall teacher and pupil numbers for 2017 were not available as of 01/02/2018.

## Financial assistance

All mainstream member schools offer financial assistance, most commonly in the form of means-tested awards, granted on the basis of financial need. The level of financial assistance can vary considerably from a free place (where 100% of the fees are met by the school) to awards worth around 10% of the fees. In 2017-18, approximately one-third of all pupils received some form of financial help with their fees, amounting to £48 million in overall financial assistance, of which over £30 million was fully means-tested.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

**24.1 %** receive **FINANCIAL HELP**

**3.1 %** of senior school pupils receive **100 % fee assistance**



Totalling over

**£49**

**MILLION**  
in assistance.



## Examination Results

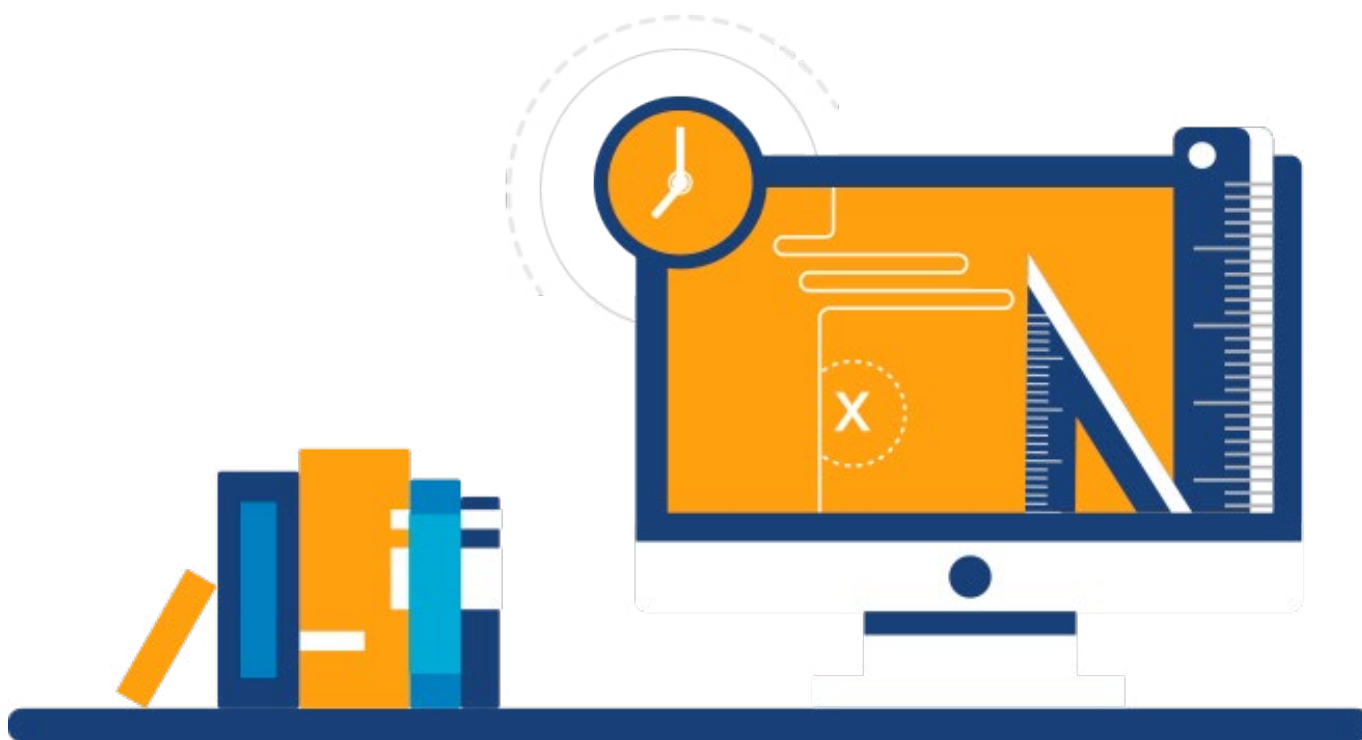
Although most senior pupils in the independent sector sit Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations, a significant number are presented for GCSE, A Levels and the International Baccalaureate. The full table of results by school is published by SCIS each year on the SCIS website.<sup>2</sup> The latest Scottish examination results for independent schools are produced from the Scottish Qualifications Authority's post marking review, published in December 2017. The summary below provides a snapshot of the performance of candidates in independent schools compared with candidates in all schools in Scotland.

Comparable figures for Scotland in International Baccalaureate, A Level and GCSE results are not currently available although individual results for each participating school are available. Each year the Independent Schools Council (ISC) releases A Level and International Baccalaureate results and Scottish independent schools are included in the data produced.<sup>3</sup>

	Entries			A-C Pass Rate	
	SCIS entries as a % of all entries	SCIS schools	Non-SCIS schools	SCIS schools %	Non-SCIS schools %
<b>2017</b>					
National 4	0.9	1,051	116,032	91.5	92.8
National 5	6	17,685	293,220	94.6	79.5
Highers	7.2	14,091	197,813	92.6	77
Adv. Highers	16.1	3,873	24,112	93.3	80
Scottish Baccalaureate	5	8	161	87.6	85.7

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scis.org.uk/facts-and-figures/exam-results/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.isc.co.uk/research/exam-results/>



## Professional Learning

The Professional Learning programme offered by SCIS continues to be integral to the services provided by SCIS. Sector and National drivers are pivotal in the creation of the extensive programme which provides insights into current trends and new initiatives in education, a focus on the wellbeing and protection of children and young people, regulatory updates, seminars on SQA qualifications and valuable opportunities for networking. During 2017 in excess of 80 SCIS courses and events were facilitated, catering for over 1600 delegates in a wide range of roles, from teachers to classroom assistants, boarding and nursing staff, administrative and marketing staff to senior managers and governors.

SCIS supported schools in meeting the requirements of national guidelines, policy and legislation. During March 2017, a new initiative in partnership with Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate allowed colleagues the opportunity to meet with two national agencies to consider combined approaches to models of external review. SCIS continued to keep abreast of developments in relation to the Named Person Service and facilitated a workshop with contributions from a range of stakeholders. Throughout 2017, SCIS worked in partnership with Gilson Gray LLP to devise a strategy to assist schools in their journey towards GDPR compliance in Scotland. The professional learning

programme was key in ensuring that the requirements and implications of the GDPR reached as wide an audience as possible and individual events were tailored for a the myriad of colleagues that are impacted by the Regulation.

Our engagement with the GTCS extends beyond that of Registration and we were delighted that the first cohort of colleagues on our Coaching Diploma received Professional Recognition from the GTCS. Allied to this, the GTCS welcomed a peer-nominated probationer from the sector to attend the National Probationer event in June 2017. The nomination celebrated and recognised the support provided by schools and acknowledging the parity of the SCIS Probationer Pathway with that of Local Authorities.

Supporting colleagues with knowledge and skills relating to the health and well-being of children and young people was a key priority for 2017. The professional learning programme was populated with one-off events including a Health and Wellbeing Conference in May, LGBTQ+ in October and Self-harm in November. Allied to this SCIS developed a 3-tier mental health pathway: introduction to young people's mental health; mental health first-aid; and CBT approaches. During 2017 the latter was developed and a dedicated programme will be piloted during 2018.



ESMS  
Dr Stephen Head  
Head of Chemistry  
Head of Science

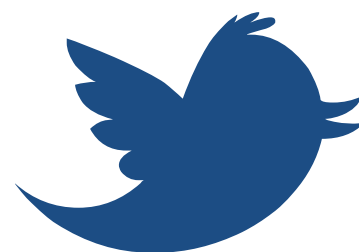


The proactivity of schools in supporting and developing professional learning has been a key feature of 2017 and SCIS is grateful to colleagues for leading in this respect. A newly established Primary Languages forum, a teacher-led Support for Learning conference and subject conferences in both Chemistry and Geography were well-received by the sector and enhance the work that colleagues in Classics and English have established. Such teacher-led input from colleagues serves to enhance the work of the sector and allows for collaboration and sharing of good practice.

A new initiative for 2017 was the launch of a dedicated professional learning e-bulletin with a key aim of raising awareness of a range of professional learning opportunities and teaching and learning resources. The e-bulletin is distributed to all schools on a biannual basis.

Courses, speakers and venues are kept under constant review, and SCIS continues to aim to provide high quality courses which offer value for money as part of SCIS service to member schools.

**The professional learning programme can also be followed at <http://www.scis.org.uk/professional-learning/> and Twitter at @SCIScpd.**



# Service to Schools

SCIS provides a professional and bespoke service to member schools that is supportive, relevant and of high quality

## Scottish Parliament – school infrastructure

The Scottish Parliament Education and Skills Committee in June 2017 agreed to undertake a short inquiry into school infrastructure and the safety of school buildings. This work was in context of the closure of school buildings in Edinburgh in early 2016, the publication of Professor Cole's independent report into these closures, and the response of local authorities across Scotland.

The Committee wrote to a number of stakeholders, including SCIS, seeking views and information for this inquiry and requesting a response by December. The SCIS response included practical examples of measures taken by independent schools, as well as checks undertaken following the Grenfell Tower fire and issues of exterior cladding.

## Barclay Review of Business Rates

On 6 March, SCIS gave oral evidence to the Barclay review group which had been set up to make recommendations to enhance and reform the business rates system in Scotland to support business growth and long term investment and reflect changing marketplaces. The issue of mandatory relief through charitable status was raised, and SCIS pointed out that SCIS schools only constitute 0.2% of registered charities in Scotland and less than 1% of all bodies receiving relief in Scotland. The 20% rate is still provided from parental income, and the situation with local authority schools business rates is not comparable, as the calculation of those is a paper exercise, which involves no transfer of money.

The Barclay Review of Business Rates was published on 22 August. It stated:

*"4.120 Independent (private) schools that are charities also benefit from reduced or zero rates bills, whereas council (state) schools do not qualify and generally will pay rates. This is unfair and that inequality should end by removing eligibility for charity relief from all independent schools. They will of course still retain charitable status and other benefits will continue to flow to them from that status. And Independent special schools will be eligible for disability rates relief where they qualify for this."*

SCIS responded to the Review both through the media and directly to the Cabinet Secretary on a range of issues, that the Report:

- Separates 50 charities from the other >24,000
- It misunderstands the role of complex ASN independent schools
- It puts schools at a disadvantage compared to the rest of the UK
- It runs 100% contrary to the aims of the 2005 Act – and all efforts on means-testing
- It mistakenly assumes state schools "pay" full rates
- It separates schools' educational purpose from other fee-charging charities, see in particular with the observation that

*"The core functions of universities including education and research and development should*



*continue to be eligible for charitable relief to reflect their key role in supporting economic growth through education of the workforce and supporting innovation."*

A series of issues were raised as to the likely unintended consequences of the proposal, not least the financial impact on the exchequer of fee rises and reduced means-tested assistance resulting in a greater pressure on local authority schools. Schools also undertook a substantial engagement with local elected members on the same issues. The SCIS press statement read:



*"The findings of the Barclay Review run completely contrary to the charity test the Scottish Parliament required all schools to undertake; would put Scottish education at a competitive disadvantage in the UK and globally; would substantially impact the work schools can do on offering bursaries and other community provision; and would set independent schools aside from all other charities - for no sound legal, political, educational or economic reason. Most of all, for a rates review, they would most likely cost the Scottish taxpayer and Government more than they seek to raise."*

The charity test for Scottish independent schools is the strictest in the world. Our high-attaining schools have worked incredibly hard over 12 years to meet that test. Any sudden alteration to rates relief would have very serious consequences for the employment of teachers, support staff and third party suppliers – as well as those 30,000 pupils educated."

The Director and Chair met with the Cabinet Secretary on 7 September, and a range of issues were covered – including the costs per pupil of a possible rise, the status of special schools, and the situation elsewhere in the UK. This was followed up with a further note on 8 September. SCIS was also in contact with other Party spokespeople, OSCR, and wider Scottish bodies.

On 12 September, the Scottish Government has responded to the Barclay Review of Business rates and repeated the Government's intention to move to implement some of the proposed measures including 100% rates relief for Day Nurseries which will commence on 1 April 2018. He added:

*"After engaging with stakeholders, I believe that a small number of recommendations merit further thought and engagement...The recommendations that require further consideration and engagement are those on removing charity relief for certain recipients, including... independent schools."*

A Sunday Herald article of 15 October led to a published, edited response from SCIS and a complaint from SCIS to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

The Director met with Scottish Government officials from the Finance and Learning Departments on 24 October, to discuss further issues raised by the Barclay Review and provide more information on the financial implications, pupil numbers etc. There was a view that the rise per pupil did not strike the Government as unsustainable and remind those schools with nurseries that 100% relief will be available next year. SCIS raised issues of comparison with other charities and the Report's reference to state schools and universities. SCIS also pointed out that a proposed tax rise on independent schools in Greece recently had exactly the response predicted of higher costs to the state. SCIS repeated the point that there are many charities on OSCR's list (none who have had the same level of scrutiny as independent schools) that one might disagree with on personal or political grounds, but that is no basis for exceptional treatment of one group.

Mr Mackay published his Draft Budget for 2018-19 on 14 December and announced that he would accept the proposal of the Barclay Review of Business Rates to remove mandatory non-domestic rates relief from, exclusively, independent mainstream schools. The SCIS response was:

*"For mainstream schools the announcement today is, pure and simple, a backwards step by the Scottish Government – taken against advice and evidence from*

*many quarters. Rates relief - rejected both in principle and in substance by today's announcement - is part and parcel of a unique public benefit test that was created unanimously by the Scottish Parliament and focussed specifically at independent schools. The changes schools have made since 2006 to merit that relief amount to more than £200 million alone in means-tested fee assistance to Scottish pupils, alongside very extensive facilities, resources and staff provision for communities, public bodies, and state schools.*

*We will consider the proposed new arrangements, and the possible exemption of special needs and specialist schools, when they are detailed. If followed through, this proposal will weaken and narrow the widening access programme and, most importantly, it will impact on those accessing bursary assistance made possible by the rates relief. It is dispiriting to learn that the Government considers that independent schools and their parents alone are deserving of a targeted fivefold rates rise. The comparisons made with both state schools and universities do not recognise that all three groups are not-for-profit and all three have education as their core purpose.*

*Those who have used business rates as a proxy for their own opposition to the independent sector should take no satisfaction from this decision. There is not the slightest chance it will diminish the dedication, energy and expertise that independent schools and their staff have shown over decades, if not centuries; and there will be no stepping back from offering choice, diversity and excellence for schools, for families and for Scotland's young people."*

Meetings with the Scottish Government are ongoing to date, with primary legislation due in 2018. Many individual school contacts also made with elected members. SCIS has also carried on discussions with OSCR on the implications of the recommendations for the charity public benefit test in the future.

The Independent Schools Council has kept in close contact with SCIS on the Barclay Review, as there is considerable



interest in whether such a proposal might prove popular in England and Wales.

## Scottish Historical Child Abuse Inquiry

On 28 February SCIS hosted a meeting between the five schools initially identified by the Inquiry and the Inquiry legal team. The meeting discussed and clarified the documentation sent out by the Inquiry, the expectations of the Inquiry and the schools, a series of legal issues and the possibility of involvement in a future phase of the Inquiry. To date, no school has been called before the Inquiry. SCIS also sits on an informal group of care providers within the scope of the Inquiry.

## General Teaching Council for Scotland

As part of the Working Group on full registration of teachers, SCIS continued to seek clarity from the GTCS in relation to a number of categories of registration, including that of Head Teachers, arguing that requirements for a PGCE/PGDE are not appropriate. The first meeting of the Head Teacher working group took place on 7 December 2017. All Heads appointed prior to 1 October 2017 have until 1 October 2020 to gain registration. Heads appointed post the date of enactment require to be registered prior to taking up post.

Throughout 2017, issues surrounding the registration of teachers continued to be on the agenda. Colleagues who

were appointed prior to the date of enactment have a number of options. In this context two significant routes are available: Named School Only or studying for a teaching qualification, the latter leading to Full Registration. SCIS was pleased when the GTCS agreed that the decision for the Named School Only category would be devolved to schools giving Heads the autonomy to work with colleagues and endorse their application.

Colleagues who do not possess a formal teaching qualification who wish to gain Full Registration may apply for the Teaching Qualification Practitioner Route (TQPR). Throughout 2017 SCIS worked closely with the University of the Highland and Islands (UHI) to design a bespoke independent PGDE which was presented for University Accreditation and GTCS Validation in October 2017. Both panels commended the Programme on many levels with a strong recurring themes being the creative/innovative approach coupled with the close partnership working with SCIS and UHI. The inaugural cohort will commence in January 2018.

## Governing Boards

SCIS staff took part in several strategy meetings of individual school Governing Boards during 2017, and are always available to do so. During 2017, John Edward was a co-opted member of the Board of the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools (AGBIS).

# Promoting the Sector

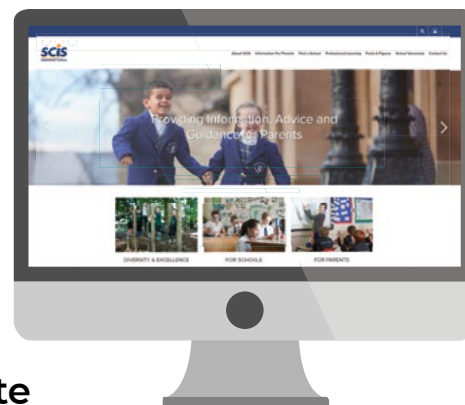
SCIS promotes the benefits of independent education at mainstream, special and specialist schools.



## Media

SCIS continues to promote the sector through engagement with the press, as well as public speaking engagements in Scotland and beyond. In 2017 SCIS provided editorial pieces on various topics to a wide range of publications including:

- The Scotsman
- Scottish Field
- Business Scotland
- Holyrood Magazine
- Nursery & School Guide
- Independent Schools Magazine
- Scottish Business Insider
- Living



## SCIS Website

The new SCIS website was launched in July 2017 and new visitor numbers have increased by over 11% in that time with over 100,000 visits to its pages in 2017. The website continues to be an excellent way to promote the sector and engage with member schools.

### The website:

- Assists families looking for information about independent education
- Promotes Professional Learning & Development courses
- Advertises vacancies within member schools

The members' area of the website is an excellent source of information and supports member schools looking for advice and guidance. Sections on the following are regularly updated:

Learning & Teaching

Legal & Regulatory

Policy & Guidance

Care & Wellbeing

Data Protection





## Social Media Performance

Twitter and Facebook are a low cost marketing strategy that helps generate traffic to the website and strengthens connections to our community.

### Facebook

To support the introduction of the new website SCIS ran a targeted Facebook advert campaign. This proved to be very successful with the adverts reaching over 2000 people each day. Due to its success we have continued the campaign and have geo-targeted areas across the UK.

### Twitter

SCIS has almost 3000 followers across our 3 twitter accounts:

- @SCISschools
- @SCIScpd
- @ScotBoardSchool

SCIS encourage schools to interact with our social media, and follows all available school accounts.

### E-bulletin

The SCIS e-bulletin is emailed monthly and available to all school staff and governors. The total number of subscribers in 2017 was 800 a rise of over 100 from 2016 figures. Schools are encouraged to share the bulletin with all members of staff.



**SCOTLAND'S  
BOARDING SCHOOLS**

## Scotland's Boarding Schools

SCIS, with the support of the 19 mainstream boarding schools, continues to promote this important sector, which brings in around £27 million to the Scottish economy each year. Scotland's Boarding Schools website attracted 30,000 visitors to the site in 2017 - [www.scotlandsboardingschools.org.uk](http://www.scotlandsboardingschools.org.uk) @ScotBoardSchool



## Enquiries

The team at SCIS are always available to offer support and professional advice to SCIS member schools and in 2017 took a significant number of enquiries from schools seeking advice and guidance on topics ranging from teacher registration to accessibility, and GDPR.

Prospective and current parents also made contact looking for information and support on a number of issues.

# Service to Education

SCIS enables the sector to make a worthwhile contribution to the development of education in Scotland, the UK and beyond

## Insight & National Improvement Framework

SCIS continued to work throughout 2017 to enable access for independent schools to the Scottish Government's Insight benchmarking tool – which would require substantial data input from the sector – as well as looking at utilising aspects of the new Scottish National Standardised Assessments.

### Named Person

This Scottish Government introduced the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill on 19 June 2017. The Bill seeks to amend the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 on the provision of information in relation to the named person service and the preparation and implementation of child's plans. The Bill provides for a Code of Practice that will be used by organisations/ individuals within those organisations responsible for deciding whether they hold relevant information and whether they should share it.

SCIS presented written evidence on 13 September, and on 4 October Gillian Fergusson, depute rector for pastoral care at Hutchesons' Grammar School represented the sector to give oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament Education and Skills Committee.

### Bullying and harassment of children and young people in schools

The Equalities and Human Rights Committee of the Scottish Parliament took oral evidence from John Edward of SCIS on 26 January as part of their examination of various issues relating to the bullying and harassment of children and young people in the school system based on various characteristics, such as gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, faith, race or ethnic background, disability etc. as well as issues around the growing normalisation of sexualised bullying of girls and young women in education. The Committee's Report was published on 6 July.

SCIS was invited by the Deputy First Minister to join a short-term working group to look at the recording and monitoring of incidents of bullying, scheduled to start work in January 2018.

## Consultation on Seatbelt Requirements for Dedicated School Transport

A Bill to require that motor vehicles provided for the dedicated transport of pupils to and from establishments where they receive primary education or secondary education are fitted with seat belts was introduced by Gillian Martin MSP on 28 February 2017, and received Royal Assent on 18 December 2017. SCIS was invited to represent the sector on a working group looking at implementation of the Act.



# Collaboration with key bodies

**Throughout 2017, SCIS has represented the views and concerns of the independent sector on a wide range of bodies, through consultations and at events organised by national bodies for schools, education authorities, care agencies and others:**

---

## **City of Edinburgh Council Child Protection Committee**

---

### **Scottish Government:**

- Curriculum and Assessment Board (formerly Curriculum for Excellence Management Board)
  - Strategic Board for Teacher Education
  - PREVENT Duty sub-group
  - Seatbelts on School Bus short-term Working Group
  - Recording and Monitoring of Bullying short-term Working Group
  - Disclosure Scotland PVG Review engagement group
- 

### **General Teaching Council Scotland:**

- Council
  - Education Committee
  - Working Group for the registration of teachers in independent and grant-aided schools
  - Professional Learning steering group
- 

### **Education Scotland:**

- External Reference Group – inspections
  - Knowledge Into Action Strategic Stakeholder Group
- 

### **Independent Schools Council (ISC):**

- General Secretaries' Group
- 

---

### **NHS:**

- LICOG Schools subgroup for Scottish Immunisation Programme in Lothian
  - Lothian independent school nurses network group
- 

### **Scottish Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (SCILT) - - (Languages Network Group Scotland)**

---

### **Scottish Teachers' Pension Scheme:**

- Scheme Advisory Board
  - Scheme Eligibility sub-group
  - Technical Working Group
- 

### **Scottish College for Educational Leadership**

- Stakeholder Forum
  - Strategic Oversight Board
- 

### **Scottish Parliament:**

- Cross Party Group on Children & Young People
  - Cross Party Group on Sport
  - Cross Party Group on Learning Disability
- 

### **Scottish Qualifications Authority:**

- Advisory Council
  - SQA/SCIS/SLS joint forum
-

# Plans for the Future

There are key educational and regulatory issues requiring continued focus in 2018. SCIS will continue work with schools and the GTCS on the completion of the full registration of teachers and heads. SCIS will follow the review of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme, amendments to National Qualifications and the ongoing implementation of the Information Sharing Provisions for Parts 4 and 5 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Named Person). The proposed primary legislation for the implementation of the Barclay Review on Business Rates recommendation for independent schools will be a key concern. Where necessary, SCIS will work closely with schools as the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry continues through 2018. SCIS will be working with schools, national associations and the Information Commissioner's Office to ensure accurate and timely implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation up to and beyond coming into force in May 2018.

The wider context of Scottish and UK politics following the Brexit referendum remains uncertain and may yet have a substantial impact on the operating climate.

SCIS is aware that the current lease on 4th floor, 61 Dublin Street, expires in April 2019, and will plan accordingly.



# SCIS operations, staff and school membership

## The Governing Board records its appreciation and thanks for the work undertaken by all the staff of SCIS throughout 2017.

Fiona MacAulay left SCIS at the end of September 2017, retiring after 12 years committed service. Fiona moves on with the thanks and best wishes of the SCIS Board and staff.

Claire Burnett and Kirsten Hamilton commenced in post as part-time term-time SCIS administrators in November 2017 – assisting with Professional Learning events, finances and other administration.

Jeremy Harper, Financial Controller of The Edinburgh Academy, succeeded Guy Cartwright as the Honorary Treasurer of SCIS in April 2017.

The Annual General Meeting, in April 2017, was addressed by the Deputy First Minister and Education and Skills Secretary, John Swinney MSP. Mr Swinney stated:

*“I am clear the independent sector has a role to play in the education system in Scotland.*

*Everyone involved in the education of our young people – no matter the setting – wants to do the best for each and every child in our care and stewardship.*

*To address this shared endeavour, I am interested in exploring with the independent sector how we can foster an environment and atmosphere of collaboration to ensure that we are learning as much and participating in as much as we can together.”*

The Deputy First Minister’s contribution was followed by a Panel Discussion on “The Challenge Ahead” with representatives of the Bank of Scotland, Navigator, and Scott Moncrieff.

The Annual Dinner was addressed by John Beattie, former Scotland and British and Irish Lions rugby player, former chairman of the Scottish Government physical activity taskforce and Radio and TV broadcaster.

At the AGM, Alan Hartley was confirmed as the new Chair of SCIS, replacing Richard Toley who had acted as interim Chair since July 2016. Alan Hartley was the Chair of George Watson’s College from 1999 to 2017. He has been Group Finance Director and Company Secretary of Mactaggart & Mickel Group Ltd since May 2004 and will become Chairman in May 2017, has been a member of The Merchant Company of the City of Edinburgh since 1998, was Scottish representative of the UK Treasury Tax Simplification Committee and worked for KPMG from 1972 to 2006.

In 2016 the SCIS Governing Board approved the membership of Balnacraig School in Perth, an independent residential school for young people with additional support needs arising from social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The school can trace its history back to 1843 and were members of SCIS in 2006-07. Balnacraig School is a registered charity (SC004887).

SCIS membership remains open to independent schools registered with the Scottish Government which have had satisfactory inspection reports from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.

# SCIS Governing Board 2017

## Chairman

Alan Hartley (March to December 2017)

## Board Members

Richard Toley	Head, Lathallan School, Angus (Chair of FGP Committee, Acting SCIS Chair until April 2017)
Jennifer Alexander	Business Director, George Heriot's School
Matthew Bartlett	Head, St Aloysius College (from April 2017)
Laura Battles	Chief Executive, Donaldson's (from April 2017)
Gavin Calder	Headteacher, Edinburgh Academy Junior School
Mike Carslaw	Headmaster, St Leonards School
John Gilmour	Headmaster, Craigclowan Prep School (from April 2017)
Richard Hellewell	Chief Executive, Royal Blind (until April 2017)
Simon Johnson	Headmaster, Wellington School (from April 2017)
Elizabeth Lister	Governor, Strathallan School
Elaine Logan	Warden, Glenalmond College (from April 2017)
Jacqui McInnes	Accountant, The Glasgow Academy (from April 2017)
Jonathan Molloy	Bursar Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools
Laura Murphy	Headteacher, Fernhill School (from April 2017)
Kieron O'Brien	Chief Executive, Common Thread Schools (until April 2017)
Simon Pengelley	Governor, High School Of Glasgow & Loretto (from April 2017)
Melvyn Roffe	Principal, George Watson's College
Melvyn Shanks	Principal, Belmont House School
athleen Sweeney	Bursar, St Aloysius College (until April 2017)
Justin Wilkes	Bursar, Dollar Academy

## Honorary Treasurer

Guy Cartwright	Bursar, The Edinburgh Academy (until April 2017)
Jeremy Harper	Financial Controller, The Edinburgh Academy (from April 2017)

## SCIS Staff Key management personnel:

Director	John Edward
Deputy Director, Professional Learning & Development	Margaret Lannon
Deputy Director, Communications & Marketing	Alison Herbert
Finance & Research Manager	Alison Newlands
Professional Learning & Development Administrator	Fiona MacAulay (until September 2017)
Administrator (part-time)	Claire Burnett (from November 2017)
Administrator (part-time)	Kirsten Hamilton (from November 2017)



[www.scis.org.uk](http://www.scis.org.uk)

61 Dublin Street,  
Edinburgh,  
EH3 6NL

Tel: +44 (0)131 556 2316  
Email: [info@scis.org.uk](mailto:info@scis.org.uk)