

## Excellence in independent schools keeps pupil numbers high Continued stability despite difficult economic conditions

**Embargoed until 00:01 Saturday 1 October 2011**

Pupil numbers at Scotland’s independent schools are remaining stable in a difficult economic climate with a total of 31,425. Overall, there has been a fractional dip of only 0.4% on last year’s figures – just 115 pupils fewer. The continued stability of independent schools is a vote of confidence by parents in the excellence and quality education that the schools provide.

At secondary level in mainstream schools, pupil numbers have increased while at nursery and primary level, there has been a slight reduction in the numbers which is attributed to the decreasing numbers of primary aged children within the population.

**John Edward, Director of Scottish Council of Independent Schools said, “Our sector remains buoyant and it is immensely reassuring that parents continue to be attracted to the excellence that our schools exemplify. The schools have worked hard in recent years to widen access and to support parents who need fee assistance.”**

**Table 1 –All schools**

	All pupils including nursery	Total excluding nursery	Nursery pupils	Primary pupils	Secondary pupils	Day pupils excluding nursery	Boarding pupils
<b>2011/12</b>	31,425	29,688	1,737	10,893	18,795	26,113	3,575
<b>% change</b>	-0.4	-0.4	+0.4	-1.4	+0.16	-0.2	-2.2
<b>2010/11</b>	31,540	29,810	1,730	11,045	18,765	26,155	3,655
<b>% change</b>	-0.5	-0.1	-7.5	-2.3	+1.2	-0.6	+3.7
<b>2009/10</b>	31,713	29,842	1,871	11,306	18,536	26,318	3,524

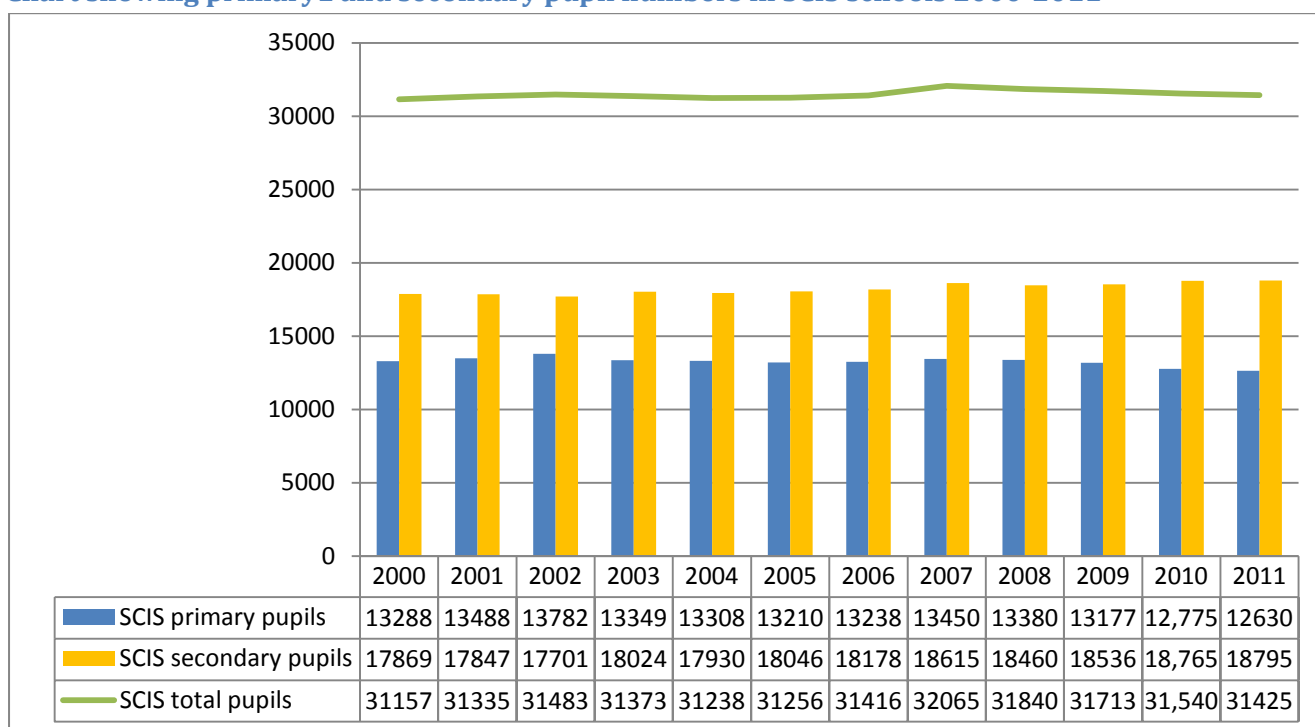
**Table 2 –Mainstream Schools only**

	All pupils including nursery	Total excluding nursery	Nursery pupils	Primary pupils	Secondary pupils	Day pupils excluding nursery	Boarding pupils
<b>2011/12</b>	30,775	29,087	1,688	10,760	18,327	25,787	3,300
<b>% change</b>	-0.3	-0.2	-1.5	-1.5	+0.6	-0.2	-0.1
<b>2010/11</b>	30,860	29,147	1,713	10,922	18,225	25,845	3,302
<b>% change</b>	-0.9	-0.4	-7.7	-2.5	+0.9	-0.9	+3.2
<b>2009/10</b>	31,130	29,275	1,855	11,207	18,068	26,076	3,199

**Table 3 - Special Schools only**

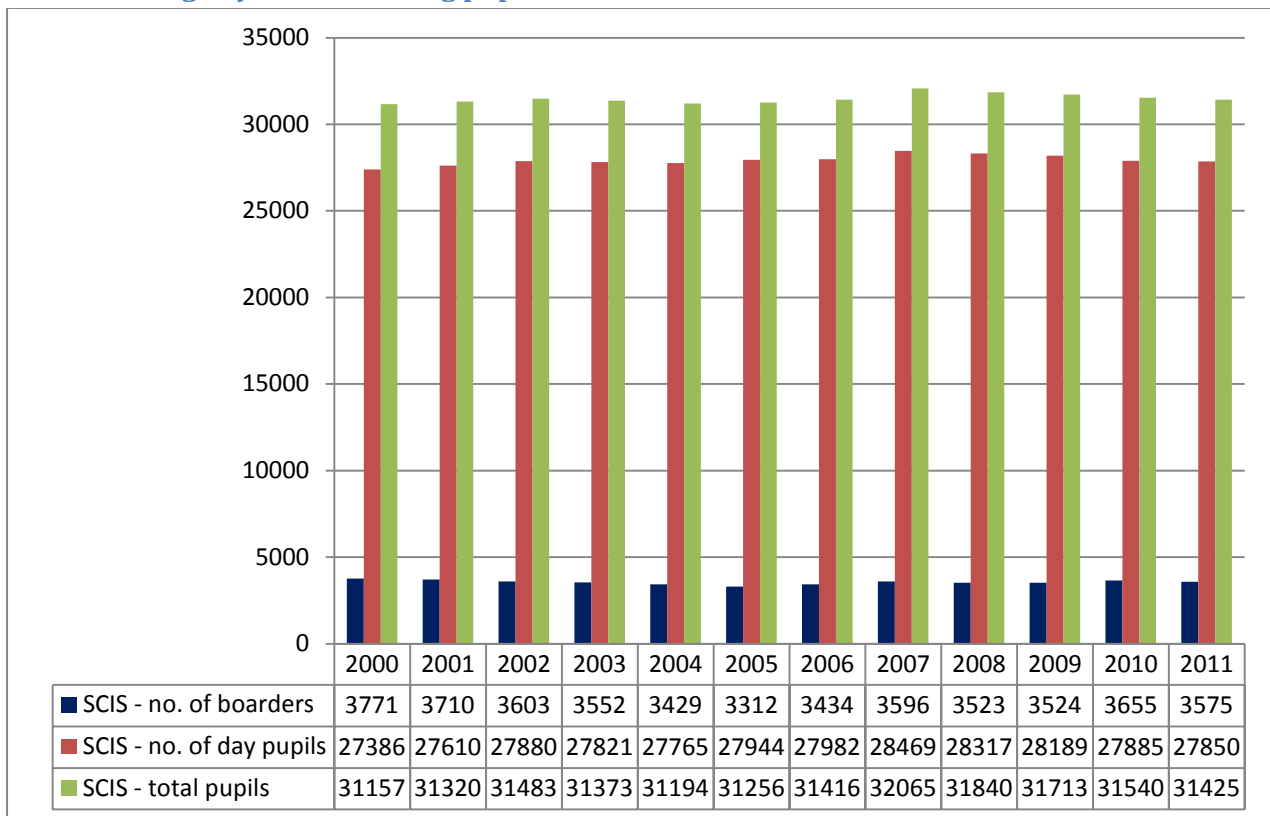
	All pupils including nursery	Total excluding nursery	Nursery pupils	Primary pupils	Secondary pupils	Day pupils excluding nursery	Residential pupils
<b>2011/12</b>	650	601	49	133	468	326	275
<b>% change</b>	-4.4	-9.4	+188.2	+8.1	-13.3	+5.2	-22.1
<b>2010/11</b>	680	663	17	123	540	310	353
<b>% change</b>	+16.6	+16.9	+6.3	+24.2	+15.4	+28.1	+8.6
<b>2009/10</b>	583	567	16	99	468	242	325

**Chart showing primary1 and secondary pupil numbers in SCIS schools 2000-2011**



<sup>1</sup> In this chart, primary pupil numbers include nursery pupils.

**Chart showing day2 and boarding pupil numbers in SCIS schools 2000-2011**



**Ends**

**For further information please contact Sarah Randell or John Edward on 0131 556 2316**

<sup>2</sup> In this chart, day pupil numbers include nursery pupils.