

What is the Independent Schools Council?

The Independent Schools Council (ISC) is a politically independent, not-for-profit umbrella body representing around 1300 independent schools educating more than 500,000 children in the UK and Ireland.

ISC schools include the well-known boarding schools, though the majority of ISC schools are day schools with strong local reputations. ISC schools cover the entire academic range and take pupils from a broad cross-section of backgrounds, with nearly a third of children receiving help with fees.

ISC represents the sector on complex and politically sensitive issues to Government and to the media, and advises its member schools. Its research department provides a secure and comprehensive evidence base for all its activities and its communications department is responsible for relations with national, regional and international media. ISC issues regular guidance and information to member schools on a wide variety of political, legal, educational and practical issues.

ISC also takes responsibility for a number of functions required equally by all member schools, most notably inspection and the recruitment and induction of teaching staff.

Overall, ISC exists to promote choice, diversity and excellence in education, developing talent at all levels of ability and from all backgrounds.

ISC information
& advice service

A free information service run by the Independent Schools Council, offering impartial advice on accredited independent schools...

📞 0845 SCHOOLS (7246657)
(9am-5pm Mon to Fri)

🌐 +44 207 766 7066 (from overseas)

✉️ information@isc.co.uk

🌐 www.isc.co.uk



independent
schools
council



information
& advice
service

What is the ISC information & advice service?

If you are a parent, grandparent, guardian, or anyone involved in bringing up a child, choosing the right school can be a hard and often daunting decision. Your choice of school must be made carefully, in order to provide the best foundation for a quality education which encourages the achievement of your child's full potential.

There are many things to consider. Boarding school or day school? Senior, junior, or both? Single-sex or coeducational? How academic? Your child may have specific religious needs, a particular talent or a special educational need. How much does an independent education cost? Is help available if I can't afford the fees? How do I apply for a place?

The **ISC information & advice service** is a free information service, established by the Independent Schools Council (ISC) to give comprehensive and impartial advice on accredited independent schools in the UK and Ireland. Staffed by a national information team and a network of expert regional advisors, the **ISC information & advice service** deals with thousands of enquiries, ranging from general questions about the independent sector to detailed enquiries about the admissions process, fees planning and special educational needs. We offer confidential assistance, prompt replies to enquiries, and a wealth of information on all aspects of choosing and applying to an independent school. For further information, call us on 0845 SCHOOLS (7246657).

You can access the **ISC information & advice service** in several ways:

Call 0845 SCHOOLS (7246657)

Our national helpline, 0845 SCHOOLS (7246657), is continually manned from 9am to 5pm, five days a week. Helpline staff have full access in real time to a comprehensive information database, and also have a mass of reference material on a range of topics related to independent schools. Helpline staff also have links with charities, grant-giving trusts, and other useful bodies. Where detailed local knowledge is needed, calls are transferred seamlessly to expert regional advisors. Regional advisors maintain a busy schedule of school visits and are therefore in a unique position to link parents with schools.

Email information@isc.co.uk

Email enquiries (either direct or through the website) are replied to within one working day.

Visit www.isc.co.uk

At www.isc.co.uk you can search our schools database yourself using your own search criteria (for example on age range, location, curriculum, facilities, day or boarding, single-sex or co-educational), and can receive, free of charge, a personalised PDF report giving details of the schools that match your criteria.

Visit a county show

We visit major county shows around the country. Details and dates can be found at www.isc.co.uk.

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What is an independent school?

Why should I choose an independent school?

How are schools inspected?

How much does it cost?

Is it possible to get financial help with school fees?

My child has special educational needs. What should I do?

Boarding or day?

Senior, junior, or both?

Single sex or co-ed?

What size school?

What exams are taken?

How important are league tables?

How do I arrange a visit?

What should I ask when I visit?

What are the entry requirements?

How do I apply?

What is Common Entrance?

What are bursaries and scholarships?

Do children move between the state and independent sectors?

My child has exceptional sporting ability. What are the most appropriate schools?

For answers to these and any other questions, call us on 0845 SCHOOLS (7246657)

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