

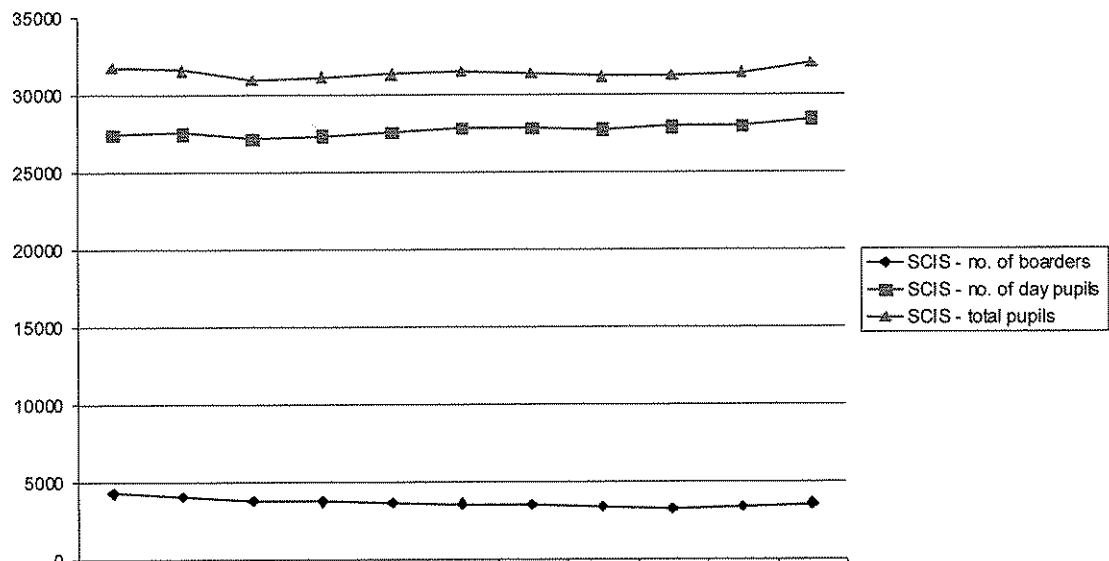
SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRESS STATEMENT : October 2007

GAINS FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

SCIS statistics for independent schools confirm the trends identified by the Scottish Executive in April this year (ref Independent Schools Census). The slow but steady increase in the number of pupils attending independent schools has continued into the current session, with SCIS numbers reaching a record 32,000 (see below).

SCIS Pupils



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
◆ SCIS - no. of boarders	4295	4044	3806	3771	3710	3603	3552	3429	3312	3434	3596
■ SCIS - no. of day pupils	27482	27541	27177	27386	27610	27880	27821	27765	27944	27982	28469
▲ SCIS - total pupils	31777	31585	30983	31157	31320	31483	31373	31194	31256	31416	32065

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Judith Sischy, Director of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools, said:

'The demand for places boosts confidence in the sector with 2007/08 showing an increase in both day and boarding numbers. This is good news for the schools, which are maintaining numbers against a demographic decline in the pupil population in Scotland.'

'The independent sector makes a significant contribution to education in Scotland. We aim for all-round excellence, encouraging young people from an early age to value education and to develop a wide range of skills. We appreciate the sacrifices that parents make to meet the cost and try to be as accessible as possible. We offer financial support wherever we can so that we can give opportunities to young people from a broad cross-section of society. Maintaining our strength numerically will help us to broaden our base.'

Notes:

- There are some 75 schools in membership of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools with a total number of 32,065 pupils, (figures submitted to SCIS by member schools as at 03/09/07).
- The schools represent over 96% of the pupils in the independent sector in Scotland.
- The choice of schools includes co-educational and single-sex schools, boarding and day, junior, senior and all-through schools, special and specialist schools.
- The pupil/teacher ratio for primary schools is 12.8 (compared to 17.1 nationally), and 8.3 in independent secondary schools (compared to 12.3 nationally).

Our research tells us that parents appreciate small classes, individual attention and high quality teaching. The commitment of teachers to individual pupils is paramount; at the primary stage the availability of specialist teachers helps the school to have an all-round appreciation of a child's strengths and to identify areas for support; at the secondary stage, the favourable pupil teacher ratio enables a wide range of subjects to be offered with small classes up and including the sixth form.

For further details see the SCIS website: www.scis.org.uk
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