



SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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ENCOURAGEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT – EVERYONE CAN DO WELL

Parents considering an independent school for their child will be reassured by the release of the Scottish Executive statistics on the Scottish Schools Online website. The website (www.scottishschoolsonline.gov.uk) shows the levels of attainment in independent schools against education authority and national averages.

The data confirms that: -

- a very high proportion (over 86%) of school leavers in the independent sector go on to full-time higher and further education ¹
- more than two-thirds of pupils in S6 leave school with 5 or more awards at Higher, Advanced Higher ² or 3 awards at 'A' level.
- academic attainment in independent schools is strong at all levels

'Examination results are important, but so is the general, all-round education that is provided to pupils of all abilities, says Judith Sischy, Director of SCIS. Our research shows that parents are seeking an environment where pupils of all abilities are encouraged to achieve their academic potential and to develop life skills that will enable them to make an effective contribution to society.'

'Although the independent sector is small in Scotland, we have 31,000 pupils, a significant number in relation to the pupil population in individual education authorities. We make a key contribution in terms of examination presentations - this year 16% of SQA entries at Advanced Higher level and 9% of entries at Higher level were from pupils in independent schools.'

'A particularly important contribution is made by students in the independent sector to science, modern languages and economics in Scotland, all areas that are vital to the future strength and economy of our country' adds Judith Sischy.

The table below illustrates the percentages of entries in particular subjects from the independent sector in 2006 ²

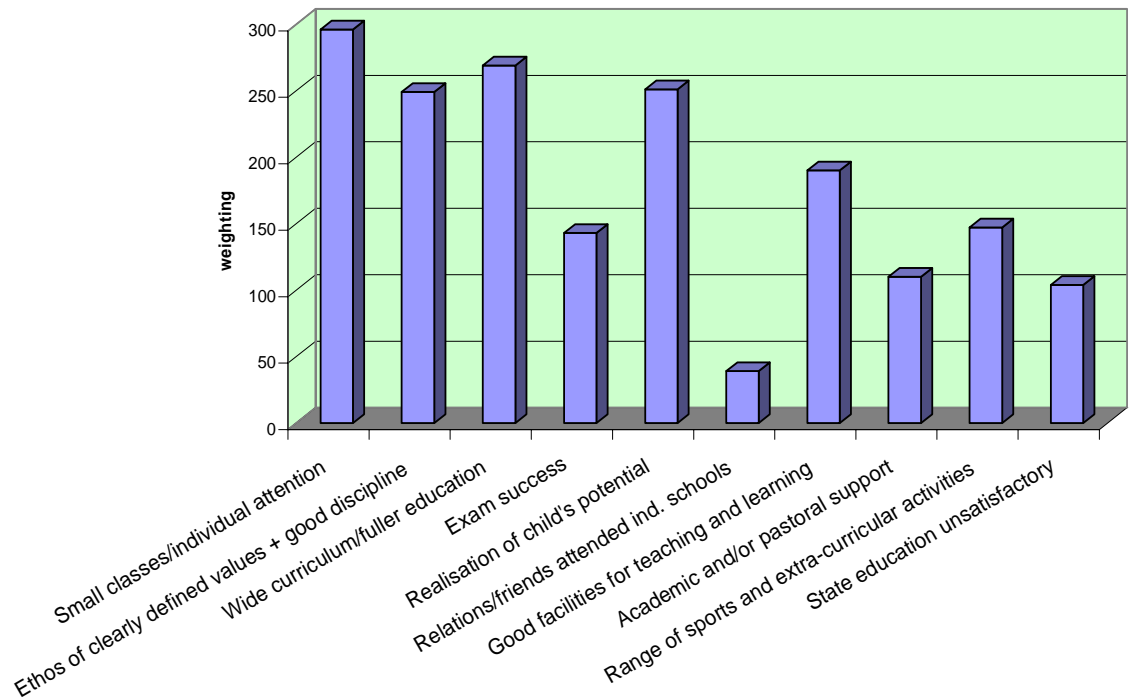
	Advanced Higher	Higher
Biology	19.0%	11.3%
Chemistry	19.4%	11.0%
Physics	11.4%	10.4%
French	24.5%	15.3%
German	21.2%	15.1%
Spanish	31.2%	19.2%
Economics	62.0%	41.9%
Latin	75.0%	55.3%

The stability of the independent sector, in a context of reducing demographic projections, ⁷ and favourable pupil:teacher ratios ⁸ are also signs of a healthy and successful environment.

Notes:

- 1** Over 85% of leavers from independent schools enter full time higher education. Source: Scottish Executive Statistics Publication, Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools 2005/6. Further details available from www.scotland.gov.uk
- 2** Figures from SQA, August 2006.
- 3** A proportion of students in independent schools also study AS and A Levels under the English examination system. From 2006, three independent schools in Scotland will also offer the International Baccalaureate (IB).
- 4** In research carried out by SCIS in 2005/6, parents rated the factors which they considered when choosing an independent school for their children as follows:

Why parents choose independent schools in Scotland (2005/6)



- 5 The Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) represents around 75 schools, 3,500 teachers and over 31,000 pupils.
- 6 There are independent schools in 20 of Scotland's education authorities, representing 24% of secondary pupils in Edinburgh, 12% in Glasgow, 14% in Aberdeen and 14% in Perth & Kinross.
- 7 SEED publications on www.scotland.gov.uk : Children Educated Outwith School and Pupil Projections 2006; Independent School Census September 2005.
- 8 The pupil:teacher ratio in independent secondary schools is 8.3 pupils per teacher. From Scottish Executive Education Department, Independent School Census September 2005. Further details available from www.scotland.gov.uk

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