

Stability, stability, stability

a stable environment and a sound education

Issuing SCIS's mid-year report of pupil numbers in independent schools in Scotland, Director, Judith Sischy said, "Pupil numbers in independent schools remain remarkably stable, despite tough economic conditions and a fall in the total pupil population in Scotland. We are encouraged by the strength of the independent sector and the commitment that parents demonstrate to their children's education."

Key Facts for 2009/10¹

- SCIS represents **98%** of independently educated pupils in Scotland.
- In 2009 nearly **32,000** children are educated in SCIS schools. Just over **4%** of pupils in Scotland are educated independently, with much higher proportions in cities and in certain areas of Scotland.
- there are SCIS schools in 22 of the 32 local authorities. However, in some local authorities, SCIS schools account for a large proportion of pupils: for example, 24% of all secondary pupils in Edinburgh and 16% in Perth and Kinross are educated independently.
- In terms of the number of pupils, the independent sector is equivalent in size to the **7th largest Local Authority** (it is the 12th largest in terms of primary pupils and the 6th largest in terms of secondary school pupils).
- The independent sector is equivalent to the 4th largest employer of teachers in Scotland.
- The teacher : pupil ratio is 9:1.
- In September 2009 there were 766 international boarding pupils in SCIS schools, with the majority coming from Germany, Hong Kong, China and Russia.
- In 2009/10, average fee increases were 3.8% for day tuition and 3.4% for boarding. Average secondary day fees were £9,198 p.a.; average secondary boarding fees were £23,076 p.a.
- The schools will try to help parents financially wherever possible. The total amount awarded in bursaries and fee remission for session 2009/10 was just over £24 million. Over 20% of SCIS pupils received some kind of financial assistance.
- Around 58% of S5 pupils who sat Higher exams achieved five or more Highers at grade A-C. Over half the Higher entries from S5 candidates in independent schools achieved an A pass.
- Of the 3,172 independent school leavers who left school in summer 2009, 90% entered full time further or higher education.
- According to SCIS' parental survey, the two most important reasons for choosing an independent school are the schools' consideration for the development of the whole child the purposeful learning environment which independent schools foster.

¹ Sources: SCIS census, Scottish Government publications 'Pupils in Scotland 2009'; 'Teachers in Scotland 2009' and 'Independent School Census 2009'.

Note to Editors:

SCIS collects data from member schools in an annual census which is completed, analysed and published each September.

SCIS's mid-year report does **not** contain new information - it is simply a summary of the most recent SCIS census re-issued to coincide with the release of data about independent schools from the sources, below, that relates to the same period as SCIS's census i.e. the current academic year of 2009/2010:

- 1) Scottish Government's Independent School Census (Tuesday 27 April 2010)
- 2) Independent Schools Council's Census (Thursday 29 April 2010)

Please note that the Independent School's Council, based in London, has just 34 member schools in Scotland which explains the difference in the data relevant to Scotland.

Please note that slight differences in data between the SCIS census and the Government's census are due to the fact that not all independent schools in Scotland are in membership of SCIS – SCIS represents 98% of the children educated at independent schools.