

Pupil Population in Scotland : Demographic Trends and Projections

Figures from Scottish Government:

Pupil Census: Pupils in Scotland 2006 and Statistics Publication Notice: Pupil Projections 2006

Pupils attending publicly-funded Primary schools: 382,783
(a decrease of 1.9% over 2005)

Pupils attending publicly-funded Secondary schools: 312,979
(a decrease of 0.9% over 2005)

Pupils attending publicly-funded special schools: 6,975

Total pupil population:
attending local authority-funded schools in Scotland 702,737
attending SCIS schools (2006) 31,416

Total: 734,153

Independent pupils as percentage of total pupil
population in Scotland: 4.3%

SCIS schools represent over 97% of the pupil population at Scottish independent schools.

Future Projections

- Overall, the total number of pupils receiving publicly-funded education is projected to decrease by 9.82% from current levels to 623,900 in 2017.
- Numbers of primary school pupils are projected to fall by 3.08% to 365,500 in 2010 and to 354,500 in 2017. Numbers of secondary school pupils are projected to fall by 14.25% to 264,100 in 2017.

The Independent Sector

- “The number of pupils in independent schools has remained fairly stable over the past decade, compared to a decrease in the population. There has therefore been a slow but steady increase in the percentage of school pupils who are in independent schools.”
Scottish Executive Independent School Census, September 2006
- This trend is in line with records collected by SCIS from its member schools. Between 1996 and 2006, pupil numbers in independent schools rose from 30,999 to 31,416. By September 2007, there was further growth to 32,065, representing a 2% increase on the previous year.