

CHOICE • DIVERSITY • EXCELLENCE



Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS)

Commitment, Contribution, Collaboration

2010/2011

SCIS is the foremost authority on independent education in Scotland

www.scis.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC018033

Vision and Values

Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) is an independent, non-political educational charity representing over 70 member schools in Scotland.

Mainstream, Special and Specialist schools in membership of SCIS educate more than 32,000 children of mixed abilities from diverse backgrounds.

SCIS promotes choice, diversity and excellence in Scottish education.

More widely recognised than ever before, the independent school sector has strengthened its position as a respected partner in the development of education in Scotland.

Registered Scottish Charity SC018033

Strategic Objectives

- To provide a professional service to member schools that is supportive, relevant and of high quality.
- To represent and promote the interests of the independent school sector.
- To enable the sector to make a worthwhile contribution to the development of education in Scotland.



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Chairman's Introduction

and Message from the Director



No-one who works in education is unfamiliar with change – however 2010 saw unprecedented internal change for SCIS as an organisation, as well as for the sector as a whole. In its twentieth year as an organisation, SCIS saw the departure of several very familiar faces, and the arrival of new ones. Nevertheless, against the backdrop of continuing uncertainty for parents and ongoing reform in education, I am confident that SCIS has continued to add value to our sector throughout.

2010 saw the ongoing impact of the recession on households, schools, school staff and many of the organisations that SCIS works alongside. Pupil numbers held firm due to the reputation for quality that independent schools enjoy. We continue to hope for the same in the months and years to come.

My predecessor wrote last year of the substantial contribution that the staff of SCIS, led by Judith Sischy, had made and continue to make. I was delighted to join that team as Chairman of the Governing Board in April 2010, in succession to Sir David Edward. At the same time, Judith Sischy started the important handover of duties to John Edward, the new Director of SCIS. Judith's farewell was marked in September 2010, but we have also a great debt of gratitude to record to Liz Blamire and David Clark, who retired in October and December respectively.

An exciting, important and pivotal role awaits David's successor as CPD coordinator in 2011, building on the experience and wisdom that David brought to that role over a decade. Liz Blamire worked alongside Judith from the first days of SCIS with great efficiency, diplomacy and good humour and her legacy to SCIS is the ease with which the office's management could be passed on to Alison Newlands, who

joined SCIS from Citizens Advice Scotland in November 2010. Shirley Todd remains on sick leave, having undergone major surgery in May 2010. Throughout all of this change, Sarah Randell, Tania Smith and Fiona MacAulay continued to serve the members with the same enthusiasm, skill and commitment as ever.

Change within SCIS will continue throughout 2011 as we look to take Governing Board meetings out of the SCIS offices and into schools around Scotland, along with other changes in our communication with schools. We will also see SCIS move to newer offices that better meet the needs of the organisation and reflect the pressures on budgets on all sides.

The General Election of 2010 continues to have repercussions for the sector in Scotland, while 2011 will see elections to the Scottish Parliament. We have worked closely with all parties over 2010, and will continue to do so. At the same time we have been closely involved with proposed changes to the inspection regimes for our schools; reform of HMIE and LTS themselves, as well as the Care Commission; the growing pressure on Additional Support Needs provision in Scotland; and the Review of Teacher Education.

All of these ongoing reforms stand alongside the introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and proposed changes to the pay and pensions of teachers to present SCIS, and the schools, with a very full agenda indeed. I look forward to playing my own part in the work that lies ahead.

Anton Colella,
Chairman of the SCIS Governing Board



The achievements and activities captured in this publication, and in the Board's full annual report, document a year of transition for SCIS and of continued change for the sector. I was very conscious of the honour and responsibility I took with the post of Director of SCIS in May 2010. That sense of respect has only been increased by the support and encouragement of member schools, the wider educational community and, in particular, of the SCIS staff and Board. I trust this document demonstrates that while some faces have changed, our commitment to, and ambition for the independent sector in Scotland carries on as strongly as ever.

John Edward,
Director of SCIS



Education

Activities and Achievements of 2010

SCIS began a year of substantial internal change in 2010, while seeking to modernise and improve the service provided, as highlighted under the four main headings of Education, Regulation, Promotion, and Collaboration.

LIAISING WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Throughout 2010, SCIS remained in close contact with the Registrar of Independent Schools, other sections of the Schools Directorate and other branches of Scottish Government; in particular on matters related to "Getting It Right For Every Child" (GIRFEC), Protection of Vulnerable Groups, the Independent Schools Census and Literacy and Numeracy Surveys.

As part of its ongoing relationship with Ministers, SCIS met the Minister for Schools, Keith Brown MSP in February, to discuss the curriculum, national qualifications and matters related to school independence. Keith Brown was replaced by Angela Constance MSP as Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning on his appointment as Minister for Transport in December 2010.

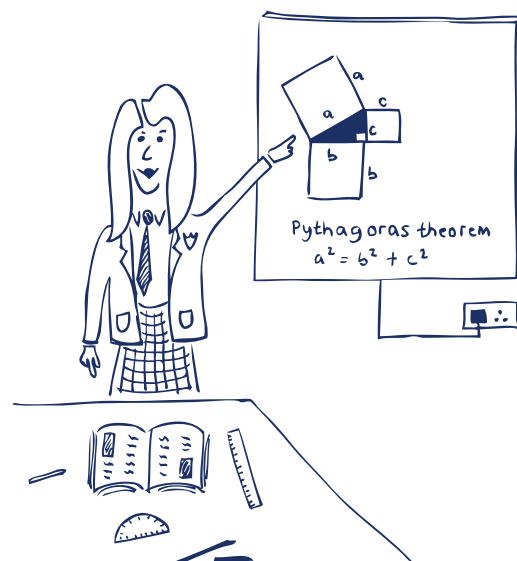
The Cabinet Secretary for Education was the guest speaker at the SCIS Annual Dinner in April 2010 where he said:

"While the independent sector is relatively small - around 4 per cent of the total number of pupils in Scotland - it is part of the rich tapestry of our education system. Many of these schools provide services to the community, including widening access to their facilities and working together with schools in the public sector and the wider local community. In return they are being recognised by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) as meeting the 'charity test'. I welcome this."

In December 2010, the SCIS Chairman and Director met the Cabinet Secretary to discuss issues raised by schools including national qualifications, GLOW and the health of the independent sector. A further meeting with Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Young People, was scheduled for early 2011 to address issues relating to GIRFEC.

During the year, SCIS engaged with MSPs and education spokespeople from across the political spectrum, drawing attention to the significant contribution made by the independent sector to education in Scotland.

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RELATIONS WITH THE UK GOVERNMENT

2010 saw the election of a new Government at Westminster. SCIS took the opportunity to write to all elected Scottish MPs, with details of the independent schools in their constituencies and information about the wider sector. SCIS also ensured that the Independent Schools Council “Manifesto” for the elections made reference to the different political and regulatory context in Scotland.

Changes to immigration procedures have required liaison with HM Government and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) over the suspension of Tier 2 licences, which allowed schools to validate staff from outside the European Union. In cooperation with the Independent Schools Council and Boarding Schools Association, SCIS also met with the Head of Temporary Migration at the UKBA to express concerns over Tier 4 entries for pupils – where recognised and registered school pupils were being held up in travel due to restrictions aimed mainly at further and higher education.

The Ministry of Defence is to review the Continuity of Education allowance and the potential impact on some boarding schools could be significant. SCIS has worked with other schools’ and heads’ associations and has liaised with the Review Team Leader at the MOD.



CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE (CFE) AND NEW NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2010 saw the first major landmarks in the implementation of the curriculum and further details about the timeline for introduction of the new National Qualifications 4 and 5. The curriculum was formally introduced in Scottish schools for the year 2010/2011, and commenced with relative ease in junior years, while senior years awaited more detail of specific course rationales and structures. Activity in the independent sector focused on the contributions of school staff to the Quality Design Teams and Curriculum Area Review Groups of the new qualifications. The first Scottish Baccalaureate qualifications in Languages and Sciences were offered in summer 2010 with forty-four entries from SCIS schools - 15% of all entries across Scotland.

SCIS continued to engage with the Scottish Qualifications Authority on issues raised by schools about the preparations for the new Qualifications and progress in individual subject areas. John Edward was approached to replace Judith Sischy on the SQA's Advisory Council, but to date the appointment awaits Ministerial approval.

SCIS has been working to develop links with external organisations that support young people with additional support needs.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

SCIS increased the membership services specifically for special schools in 2010 as the number joining SCIS continued to grow. SCIS has been working to develop links with external organisations that support young people with additional support needs.

A review of learning provision in Scotland for children and young people with complex additional support needs was announced in 2010, and SCIS – along with several member schools – is represented on the Review Project Group. The review follows the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Acts of 2004 and 2009 which provide the legal framework for identifying and addressing additional support needs (ASNs). SCIS highlights the provision that exists in the independent sector – beyond local authority facilities – to meet regional and national needs in additional support.

In November 2010, SCIS also made a presentation on independent special schools to the new Additional Support Needs Tribunal.



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) AND TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme offered by SCIS continues to be one of the most valuable services provided to schools. The importance of CPD to all schools and staff was highlighted in early drafts of the Review into Teacher Education undertaken by Graham Donaldson.

The SCIS programme, designed to provide guidance and professional development for school staff, helps schools to improve and prepare for change. It creates opportunities for teachers, administrative and support staff, Governors, Heads and Bursars to keep abreast of current developments and to learn from each other and to share good practice.

The vast majority of course evaluations are extremely positive. All feedback, collected and analysed by Fiona MacAulay, CPD Administrator, is communicated to presenters and to the venues and is used by SCIS in forward planning and course development.

The successor to David Clark, Deputy Director for CPD, will explore new ways of delivering CPD, new subject areas and possible collaborations with other providers.

The SCIS Board is ensuring that, while maintaining the quality of courses, costs are kept to a minimum and income generated covers the expenditure within the SCIS budget across the year. More than 100 workshops, seminars and conferences were offered by SCIS in 2010, attended by around 1,000 school staff. The involvement of delegates from

special schools is rising and further courses covering issues of particular relevance to special schools are being added to the programme. Staff of local authority schools are welcome to attend SCIS's CPD courses, although in practice the take-up has been small.

Topics included in the CPD programme for 2010 were child protection; Curriculum for Excellence; employment law; e-safety; houseparents' conference; leadership; literacy and numeracy; nurses and matrons; outdoor education; primary/secondary transition; responsibilities of governors; teacher induction training and many more. The full programme can be seen on the CPD page of the SCIS website.

SCIS and the independent sector are strong advocates of teaching as a profession – a point made forcefully in the SCIS response to the consultation on the Scottish Government's review of teacher education in 2010.

In 2010, activity on the Jobs page of the SCIS website continued to increase, and a rise in the modest charge to advertise there was made to cover additional work on what has become one of the most visited pages of the website. SCIS also manages a database of teachers interested in supply work in independent schools.

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme offered by SCIS continues to be one of the most valuable services provided to schools.

Regulation

Work has begun to explore whether an additional qualification could be developed for staff from outside of Scotland.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION (HMIE)

SCIS links with HMIE during 2010 centred on the proposals for a School Inspections Framework Review. Launched in May, the review looked at changing various aspects of school inspections, as well as reducing the overall number of formal inspections. Changes to the selection of schools, reporting, notice period, parental and staff involvement were all proposed. SCIS formed part of the External Reference Group for the Review. HMIE is due to respond to the Review consultation in early 2011, with a new inspections framework in place by Autumn 2011.

SCIS met with representatives of HMIE and the Scottish Government in late 2010 to examine how a revised framework of inspections for independent schools will look. In particular, SCIS has been keen to ensure that the framework takes account of the:

- lack of a local authority with which to conduct new "joint audits" to choose schools for inspection, and the basis upon which schools will be chosen for inspection
- varied curricula in independent schools, including International Baccalaureate, AS and A-level courses, ASDAN and Waldorf Steiner teaching
- demand placed on independent schools to prepare pre-inspection information and self-evaluation documentation if the notice period for inspections is reduced
- lack of access to GLOW for independent schools and the impact on future access to National Assessment Tools
- capacity of small schools to provide staff to join inspection teams

- ability of working parents and parents of boarders to be involved in inspections
- implications for Residential Special Schools
- proposed joint publication of inspection reports with local authorities
- potential for schools to request an inspection

In October 2010, the Cabinet Secretary announced the creation of a new Scottish Education Quality and Improvement Agency to increase and improve the coordination of support available to schools. The agency will initially bring together HMIE and LTS although the Government did not rule out adding other functions in the future. The independence of HMSCI and the inspection system will continue under the new Agency. SCIS met with the project director of the new Agency in December 2010 to provide independent sector input to the development process.



GENERAL TEACHING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND (GTCS)

SCIS has served on the General Teaching Council for Scotland since 2001 which allows the independent sector to be represented. The Government has no plans to introduce statutory registration for teachers in the independent sector but hopes that increasing numbers of teachers will register on a voluntary basis. Most teaching vacancies in the independent sector are now advertised as requiring the post-holder to be registered with the GTCS or eligible to be registered. In April 2010, around 85% of teachers in the independent sector were GTCS registered.

In 2010, the GTCS launched a series of consultations related to the Scottish Government's Draft Order to establish the full operational independence of the Council in 2011. A place for the independent sector is to be maintained on the new Council which will be reduced in numbers from fifty to thirty-seven after independence. SCIS responded to the consultation on New Registration and Standards Rules, and to a revised Statement of Registration Principles concerning the registration of individuals qualified to teach outside Scotland (previously known as the Statement of Principles governing Exceptional Admission to the Register).

SCIS continues to work with the GTCS on issues of registration, about which a joint statement was produced in 2010. Registration issues usually stem from the lack of mutual recognition between the GTCS and GTC in England and other bodies. This is exacerbated by the development of alternative routes into teaching such as "Teach First" and the Graduate Teacher Programme.

In 2010, the Chief Executive of GTCS, Tony Finn, met with a group of head teachers of independent schools – and with the SCIS Management Committee – to discuss the issue of Exceptional Admissions. Work has begun to explore whether an additional qualification could be developed for staff from outside Scotland, although uncertainties remain over the Review of Teacher Education's recommendations and changes to higher education funding.

CARE COMMISSION

SCIS works closely with the Care Commission on issues affecting early years, residential special schools and mainstream school care accommodation services. In 2010, meetings focused on the criteria and benchmarks for the inspection of mainstream boarding schools and residential special schools and also the inspection of Steiner Waldorf schools.

The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill 2010 established a new scrutiny body, Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS). It will take on the existing responsibilities of the Care Commission and Social Work Inspection Agency along with responsibility for the inspection or services to protect children – currently undertaken by HMIE – and the inspection of the integration of children's services.

The Care Commission made clear that the number of annual inspections will be reduced under the new body. SCIS is following closely proposals that schools that consistently maintain high quality standards will be visited less frequently. SCIS will continue to work closely with SCSWIS, as it is established, and continue representation through the successor body to the National Quality and Consistency Forum.



SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL (SSSC)

In 2010, changes to the eligibility for SSSC registration were announced. Care staff at boarding schools and residential special schools who do not hold GTCS or SSSC registration will be required to complete a vocational, 'evidence-based' qualification to satisfy SSSC registration. Managers have until November 2012 to register while Supervisors must register by April 2013 and house staff by November 2013. Once registered, staff have three years to complete the appropriate qualification which must include observed practice.

The BSA Certificate of Professional Practice for Boarding Staff (SVQ level 4) with level 3 mandatory units in either Health and Social Care (Children and Young People) or Children's Care Learning and Development is acceptable for registration for House Staff in Independent Boarding Schools. Therefore, should an individual wish to use the award for another part of the register which required a SVQ level 3, they would need to complete the remaining VQ units.

Ensuring that the large cohort of residential and care staff in independent schools complete the appropriate qualification before the deadline is likely to present challenges for some schools and SCIS is encouraging early registration.

OFFICE OF THE SCOTTISH CHARITY REGULATOR (OSCR)

SCIS's engagement with OSCR and with member schools on the Charity Test continued in 2010 but with less intensity than in previous years. Four independent schools remain under directions until October 2011, and OSCR reported in February 2010 that all four schools were implementing plans agreed with the Regulator. One further school was notified in June 2010 that it would form part of the final phase of Rolling Review 1b. SCIS has continued to host events to help schools meet the charity test. A study of the public benefit activities provided by member schools was also undertaken by SCIS.

In 2010, OSCR published details of a new style of integrated review, to commence in 2011. Key proposals include a revised monitoring programme with a streamlined annual return form, a revised Scottish Charity Register with graphically displayed financial highlights and 'OSCR on-line' which will provide on-line services for charities. SCIS also advised schools of changes to OSCR procedures following the new Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 which made a number of amendments to the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

POLICY GUIDANCE

The detailed guidance that SCIS provides for member schools on child protection, employment law, admissions and accessibility amongst others is kept under review, not least due to substantial legal changes such as the Equalities Act of 2010.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME

Negotiated by SCIS for the benefit of member schools, the personal accident insurance scheme covers all pupils and staff in respect of permanent disability or death by accident, irrespective of legal liability, all year round. It represents a useful saving to schools through the benefit of joint purchasing power. The scheme was renewed in 2010 with the aim of securing the rates for a further two years and to keep the increase in the premium to a realistic minimum.

COPYRIGHT AND OTHER LICENCES

SCIS negotiates and signs licences for copyright and off-air recording on behalf of member schools, thereby saving administrative costs and ensuring that schools are properly protected. As well as providing legal cover and guidance on the complexities of copyright, the corporate licence represents significant savings for schools. A new Copyright licence in 2011 will provide all schools with the permission to re-use digital and website content that has been opted in to the licence. SCIS will continue to seek group savings in other areas of rights licensing, including performing rights and hymns.

PENSIONS

SCIS, along with a nominated Bursar, serves on the Management Advisory Group of the Scottish Teachers Superannuation Scheme. Following the 2010 independent review of public pensions, substantial changes were proposed in Lord Hutton's Reports.



As well as providing legal cover and guidance on the complexities of copyright, the corporate licence represents significant savings for schools.

Promotion



Promoting the independent sector is a key role of SCIS. On a lean budget, its communication strategy has proven to be effective, resulting in an increased volume of telephone enquiries and website visits, despite a tougher economic climate. In 2010, there were 98,520 unique visitors to the SCIS website and 361,127 pages viewed. The school profiles page was one of the top three most frequently visited. Telephone enquiries seeking more detailed advice and guidance about choosing a school rose to almost 1,000 over the year.

The professional skills of Sarah Randell, Deputy Director - Marketing and Communications have greatly enhanced the impact that SCIS is making. Through targeted advertising and media work, intended to draw parents from a wider demographic group to the SCIS website, the benefits of independent education are made clear. In 2010, the SCIS brand was refreshed by the use of cartoon drawings which served to show the friendly, approachable face of independent schools. The campaign has now been developed further and fine-tuned, in consultation with marketing staff from member schools.

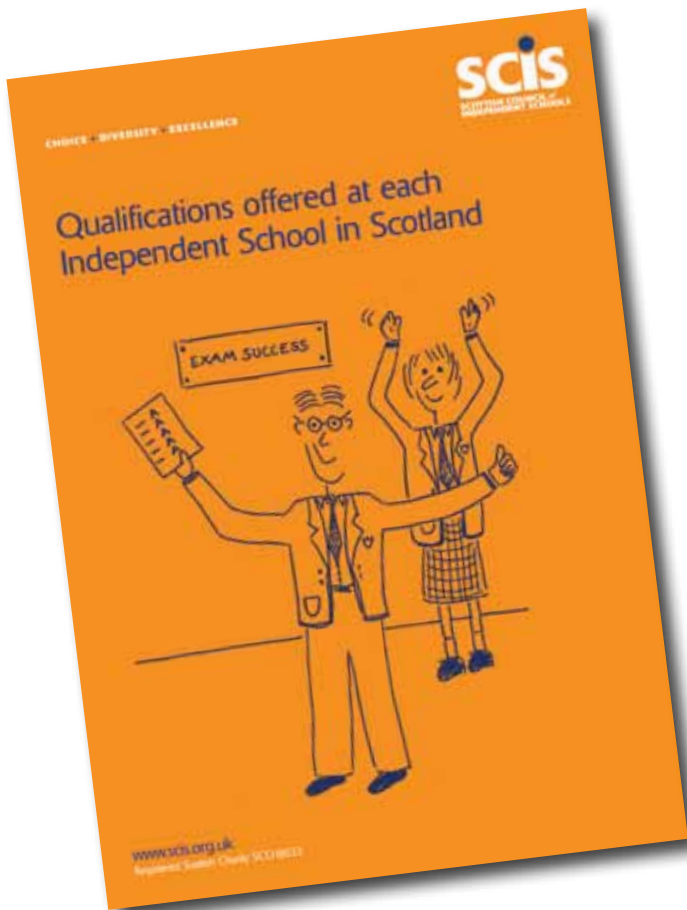
INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Parents value highly the information, advice and guidance provided by SCIS when choosing a school. Those new to independent schooling often seek reassurance as well as information, so it is enormously advantageous that SCIS knows all its member schools well. In 2010, the most frequently asked questions were about choice of school, additional support needs, entrance procedures, qualifications on offer, examination results, meeting the cost of school fees and applying for financial assistance.

Designed primarily for parents, the SCIS Directory of Independent Schools is also sent to organisations around Scotland and beyond, including boarding and guardianship organisations, careers offices, educational and inspectorate bodies, education correspondents in Scottish and British media, educational psychologists and social workers in each local authority area in Scotland, house builders, independent financial advisors, local enterprise companies, nurseries, MSPs from across the political spectrum, reference departments of libraries across Scotland, solicitors property centres and others.

In 2010, SCIS extended, in print and online, its range of marketing literature. New leaflets include Qualifications offered at Independent Schools, Pastoral care, a parents' guide to independent Special Schools, and Teaching in Independent Schools. Film clips on a number of admissions-related themes were also produced and added to the SCIS website.

Tackling misconceptions about independent schools remains a challenge and SCIS is, as ever, active in public affairs work. Increasingly, SCIS is involved in business networking, seeking opportunities to highlight the strengths of independent schools to the business community.



FACTS AND STATISTICS

The presence of Tania Smith in the capacity of research and liaison has significantly strengthened SCIS's ability to project a sectoral profile and provide schools with professional analyses of pupil numbers, fees, staffing levels, examination results, pupil/teacher ratios, education costs in local authorities compared with fees in independent schools – as well as ad hoc research work requested by the Governing Board of SCIS or by member schools. All research findings are published in the members' area of the SCIS website at www.scis.org.uk/members. SCIS's analysis of trends and costs in independent schools in relation to their counterparts in local authorities helps schools to demonstrate their value for money and to evaluate their position in a wider context.

In 2010:

- SCIS was equivalent to the seventh largest education authority in Scotland in terms of pupil numbers
- the independent school sector was the fourth largest employer of teachers in Scotland

SUPPORTING MEMBER SCHOOLS

SCIS supports marketing and admissions staff in its member schools in a number of ways. An annual conference takes place in May and workshops on specific themes are organised throughout the school year. SCIS also facilitates a termly meeting of marketing and admissions staff that provides an opportunity for sharing best practice. Assistance with marketing planning is also available.

The way that SCIS communicates with its member schools was reviewed in 2010 with the intention of making it direct, effective and efficient. As a result, most written communication with schools is now electronic and SCIS is pleased to see that school staff are making greater use of the information. There have been significant cost savings too.

All research findings are published in the members' area of the SCIS website at www.scis.org.uk/members



PUPIL NUMBERS, FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

At the start of each new academic year SCIS gathers statistical data from member schools to provide an overview of the independent school sector in Scotland. The information, in aggregate form, is made available to member schools, the public and the media. Facts and statistics about pupil numbers and demographic projections can be downloaded from the SCIS website.

In September 2010, there were 31,540 pupils in SCIS schools. Of the 31,540 total 1,730 children were in nurseries, 11,045 were in primary schools and 18,765 pupils were in senior schools. Pupil numbers in the independent sector remain stable with a fractional dip of 0.5% - the same as the state sector. This is despite the closure in June 2010 of St Margaret's School, Edinburgh.

SCIS produces data on fee levels and financial assistance for parents which is available on the website. Average fee increases in September 2010 were 4% for day schools and 3.2% for boarding schools. The average annual fees, shown below, are indicative average fees and as such cover a wide range of fees across the sector:

Day schools:	Senior £ 9,498	Junior £ 7,671	Nursery £5,811
Boarding schools:	Senior £24,642	Junior £17,925	

All schools offer financial assistance, most commonly in the form of means-tested awards, granted on the basis of financial need. The level of financial support can vary considerably, from a free place (where 100% of the fees are met by the school) to awards worth around 10% of the fees. The SCIS leaflet, Meeting the Cost of School Fees, gives information, advice and guidance about planning ahead to meet the cost of school fees and it takes parents, step-by-step, through the process of making an application for financial assistance.

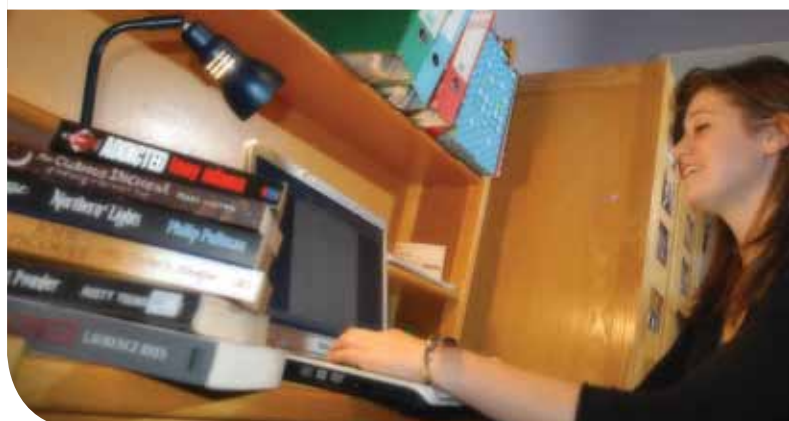
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EXAMINATION RESULTS

Although most pupils in the independent sector sit the Scottish examinations, a significant number are presented for GCSE, "A" levels and the International Baccalaureate. A table of results, organised alphabetically by school, is published by SCIS each year and can be found on the SCIS website. The latest Scottish examination results for independent schools are taken from the Scottish Qualification Authority's post-appeal results, published in November 2010.

The following table sets out the pass rates and percentage of entries which were awarded grade A – or Grade 1 in the case of Standard Grades – for candidates who sat SQA exams in S4, S5 and S6. Comparable figures for International Baccalaureate, A-Level and GCSE results are not currently available because of difficulties with accessing results data from the relevant examination bodies. SCIS continues to negotiate with these bodies to seek to secure the required level of access.



2010 POST-APPEALS	A-C PASS RATE SCIS SCHOOLS %	A-C PASS RATE ALL SCHOOLS %	A PASS RATE SCIS SCHOOLS %	A PASS RATE ALL SCHOOLS %
S4 Standard Grade	99.9	98.6	61.2	21.6
S4 Intermediate 2	96.7	89.4	73.4	53.9
S5 Highers	92.0	80.4	52.0	30.0
S6 Advanced Highers	90.7	79.1	45.7	28.3

In December 2010 the Scottish Government stopped publishing statistics on destinations of leavers from independent schools.

Collaboration

Throughout 2010, the SCIS team represented the sector at a wide range of events.

SCIS is represented on numerous groups related to curriculum and qualifications, child protection, pastoral care, health and wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland:

- Boarding Schools Association (BSA)
- Children of Service Families – Stakeholders' Network
- Cultural Organisations and Local Authorities Group (COALA)
- Curriculum for Excellence Management Board
- Curriculum for Excellence Stakeholders Group
- Doran Review of Additional Support Needs: National Project Group
- Edinburgh Council Child Protection Committee
- Getting it Right for Every Child in Edinburgh Project Implementation Board
- General Teaching Council Scotland – GTCS Council and SCIS Liaison Group
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) external stakeholders Group
- Independent Development Professionals in Education (IDPE)
- Independent Schools Council (ISC) Advisory Council and Secretaries Group (alongside HMC, IAPS, ISA, GSA, SHMIS, COBIS, ISBA, AGBIS, BSA, WISC)
- Management Advisory Group (Scotland) for Scottish Public Pension Agency (SPPA)
- Scottish Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (CILT)
- Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care - National Qualification and Consistency Forum (to be replaced after 1 April 2011)
- Scottish Continuing International Professional Development Programme (SCIPD)
- Scottish Educational Research Association
- Scottish Government Additional Support for Learning Team
- Scottish Government ScotXed Forum
- Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Children and Young People
- Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Dyslexia
- Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Sport
- Scottish Qualification for Headship – East & West Consortia
- Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Advisory Council
- SQA/SCIS/SLS (School Leaders Scotland) joint forum
- Scottish Social Research Association Committee



PRIORITIES FOR 2011

SCIS exists to add value for pupils, parents, teachers and staff of Scottish independent schools – whether in the educational, legal, regulatory, political or financial field. It is a proactive but representative body, ensuring that the views of the sector are sought and heard. Pressures ahead for the sector include the forthcoming Scottish election, the impact of changes at Westminster, the economic climate and pressures on parents following Scottish budget reductions, the ongoing charity reviews, new qualifications and changes within regulatory bodies, alongside the core responsibility of providing a sound education to 32,000 children. In 2011, SCIS will continue to do all it can to support and represent the interests of its member schools.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

SCIS is satisfied that it remains well placed to comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 in relation to meeting the charity test and that its activities, in furtherance of its purpose - the advancement of education - provide ample evidence of public benefit.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of SCIS remains open to independent schools that are registered with the Scottish Government and have had satisfactory inspection reports from HMIE and the Care Commission. SCIS continues to receive enquiries about membership, mainly from newly established schools and from special schools that have not been SCIS members in the past, several of which joined in 2010. Such schools tend to have relatively small pupil numbers and are welcome as valued new members with special skills and expertise.

SCIS GOVERNING BOARD

Chairman

Mr Anton Colella

Board Members

Mrs Jane Arrowsmith, Principal, Troup House School, Banffshire
Mr Mark Becher, Headmaster, The Compass School, Haddington
Mrs Wendy Bellars, Head, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane
*Mr Andrew Rathborne, Headmaster, Craigclowan Preparatory School
Mr Gerry Brown, Bursar, St Margaret's School, Aberdeen
Mr Colin Crosby, Governor, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen
*Mrs Lesley Douglas, Rector, Kelvinside Academy
Dr John Halliday, Rector, High School of Dundee
Mrs Jenny Harper, Governor, Belhaven Hill School, Dunbar
Mr Alistair Hector, Head, George Heriot's School, Edinburgh
Mr J Gordon Jack, Governor, The Glasgow Academy
Mr Iain Kilpatrick, Head, Beaconhurst School, Stirling
Mr Tom McGhee, Head, Spark of Genius School, Paisley
Mrs Gillian Stobo, Principal, Craigholme School, Glasgow
Mr Gordon Woods, Warden, Glenalmond College, Perth

*denotes those appointed at the SCIS AGM in April 2010

Co-opted Members

Mr Jeremy Chittleburgh, Hon Treasurer of SCIS and Treasurer of St George's School, Edinburgh
Mr Gareth Edwards, Chairman of SCIS Management Committee and Principal of George Watson's College, Edinburgh

SCIS Staff

John Edward, Director (from 1 May 2010)
Sarah Randell, Deputy Director - Communications and Marketing
Tania Smith, Assistant Director - Liaison and Research
Alison Newlands, Office Manager (from 22 November 2010)
Fiona MacAulay, CPD Administrator
Shirley Todd, P/T Office Administrator (sick leave since May 2010)

Retirements during 2010: Judith Sischy retired as Director on 31 July 2010.
David Clark retired as Deputy Director (CPD) on 22 December 2010.
Liz Blamire retired as Office Manager on 31 October 2010.

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