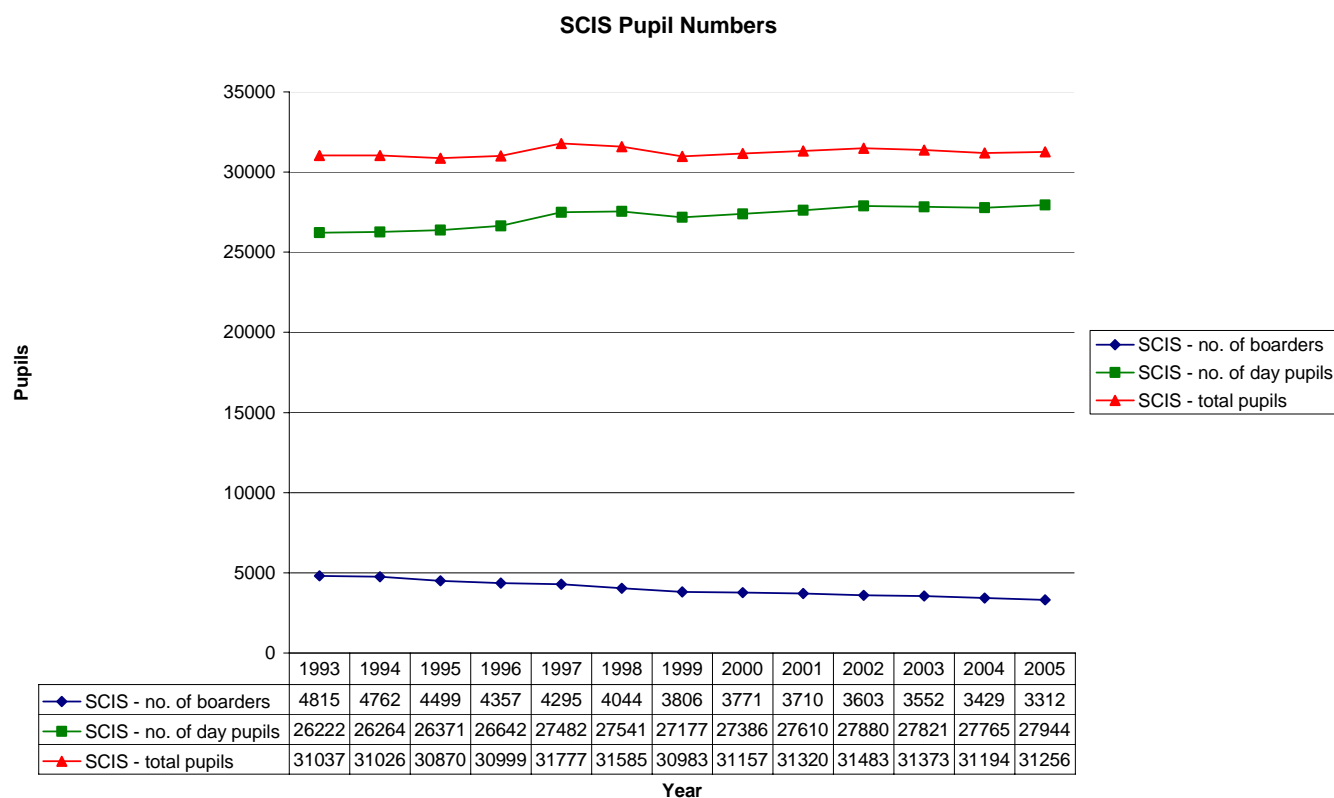


SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRESS STATEMENT : 09/05/06

GOOD NEWS FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

SCIS statistics for independent schools this session are reaffirmed by the findings released today in the ISC¹ Census, confirming the stability and continuing strength of the sector in Scotland. Despite an overall decline in pupil numbers nationally, linked to current demographic trends, confidence in independent schools remains high, as shown in the chart below.



Continued.../

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

'This week our confidence in the sector has been reaffirmed by the Independent Schools Council¹ census and by the Scottish Executive² census. This is good news for the schools, which are maintaining numbers against a demographic decline in the pupil population in Scotland.

'We know from our research that parents appreciate the ethos, values and individual attention given to their children in an independent school. The Scottish Executive census confirms that in independent primary schools the pupil/teacher ratio is 12.8 compared to 17.1 nationally, and 8.3 in independent secondary schools compared to 12.3 nationally. This enables high standards of learning and teaching to be maintained throughout a young person's education.

'In the independent sector we strive for excellence and encourage young people from an early age to value education, to develop a wide range of skills and to be responsible citizens. We appreciate the sacrifices that parents make and try to be as accessible as possible. We continue to offer opportunities to young people from a broad cross-section of society and maintaining our strength numerically will help us to broaden our base.'

Notes:

¹ The (ISC) Independent Schools Council (www.isc.co.uk) represents schools throughout the United Kingdom.

² Independent School Census, Scottish Executive, 25 April 2006

- there are some 75 schools in membership of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools with a total number of 31,256 pupils, (figures submitted to SCIS by member schools as at 01/09/05)
- 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
- while the number of pupils in independent schools is 4.1% of the total pupil population, there is considerable variation in the % in different areas:

	Total in independent schools	Secondary
City of Edinburgh	18.5%	23.7%
City of Glasgow	8.6%	11.8%
Perth & Kinross	10.3%	14.3%
Dundee City	5.0%	7.6%
Aberdeen City	11.4%	13.8%

**For further details see the SCIS website: www.scis.org.uk
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Telephone: 0131 220 2106**

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