

ISC ANNUAL CENSUS 2024

The ISC annual Census was carried out in January 2024. All 1,411 schools in UK membership of the constituent associations completed the survey. The Census covers 556,551 pupils and provides a detailed snapshot of the schools and of the wider social and economic trends in the UK.



Schools

1,411

The total number of schools in ISC membership. This is an increase of 16 from last year's total of 1,395.

Pupils

556,551

The number of pupils across all schools in ISC.



New pupils

107,259

This represents a decrease of 2.7% from the 2023 Census – the biggest fall since this data began to be collected in 2011. VAT being added to school fees is one factor influencing this.

Academic selection

798

Over half of all ISC schools are not academically selective. A further 253 schools have academic selection only for some age ranges.

Median school size

284

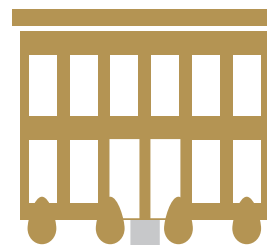
Half of schools have under 285 pupils and one quarter of schools have under 153 pupils.



Means-tested assistance

£500m+

The amount provided in means-tested fee assistance for pupils at ISC schools. Nearly half of all pupils on means-tested bursaries have more than half of their fees remitted. Overall, the amount of fee assistance available for independent school pupils was over £1.4 billion.



Higher education

90%

The proportion of pupils who leave ISC schools to go on to higher education. Of these, 4% go to Oxbridge and 51% to one of the top 25 universities in the Sunday Times' Good University Guide.

Overseas pupils

26,195

There are 26,195 pupils in ISC schools whose parents live overseas. This represents 4.7% of all pupils and brings cultural diversity to our schools.



Charitable work

£9.9m+

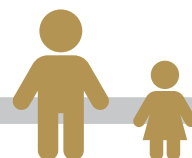
At least £9.9 million was raised for charities at ISC schools and 935 schools organised volunteering opportunities for staff and/or pupils.



Partnerships

9,248

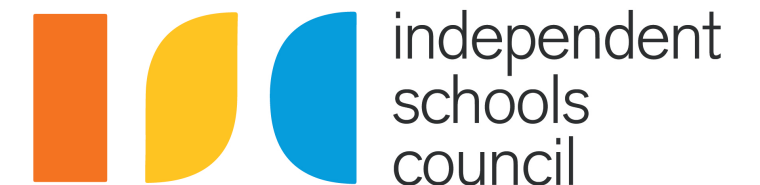
Schools reported 9,248 partnerships in the calendar year 2023. This was a 5% rise on the year before.



SEND

111,154

The number of pupils at ISC schools who have been identified as having SEND. Over 103,000 receive support without being in receipt of an education, health and care plan.



1974 50th anniversary 2024

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