

ISC Affiliates

ISC paper for Board September 2016

From time to time, organisations operating across UK independent schools approach ISC Board requesting formalised association or membership of some kind. In the past, this has not been granted beyond the following two categories:

- **Full Membership of ISC**

The full members of ISC are the owner associations who direct the activities of ISC and make major decisions relating to ISC. Each of seven member associations¹ is represented at the board table by a member of its secretariat as well as a time-limited post-holder such as the annual association chairman. Board members are directors of ISC. The seven secretaries (one per association) also meet monthly to discuss issues between board meetings.

- **Affiliate Membership of ISC**

Affiliate members of ISC are sometimes described as “linked organisations”. There are currently three such organisations listed in the ISC accounts. They are quite different from each other:

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| ○ Boarding Schools Association | BSA |
| ○ Council for Overseas British International Schools | COBIS |
| ○ Scottish Council of Independent Schools | SCIS |

Affiliate members are different from full members in that they are not owners of ISC. Our affiliates include in their membership some schools who are not otherwise members of ISC through one of the seven full member associations. These include non-association schools, state schools and/or international schools.

Affiliates enjoy the following membership benefits:

- Receive paperwork for secretaries meetings and invitations to attend secretaries’ meetings. This affords an opportunity to discuss and explore issues of relevance to their members and for the association to connect with the wider body of ISC
- Attend full board meetings when invited to contribute to specified items on the agenda (but do not have voting rights and are not directors of ISC)
- Use the ISC logo on association website and publications
- Can be included in ISC working groups, expert groups and round table discussions
- Liaise with ISC staff and have access to the five ISC functions. Receive ISC updates and publications

Affiliates are not included in the ISC census. Affiliate organisations' schools are not included on the ISC schools database or school search.

ISC benefits from affiliate membership in the following ways:

- A broader reach across the UK with local expertise in Scotland and Wales where there are legal and inspection differences
- An international perspective which can be particularly helpful for schools branching overseas and in collecting information about other systems (e.g. international comparisons)
- Partners with whom to share messaging on specific issues such as visas and from whom to collect intelligence to support messaging for the common good
- Representation of all major groups of schools relevant to Independent Schools Council business and issues to ensure sector overview

Other categories of membership

- A fourth organisation, Welsh Independent Schools Council (WISC) is usually referred to as an affiliate member. It receives the same benefits as the other three affiliates but has a different relationship with ISC. WISC was established by ISC in order to provide the range of legal, policy and lobbying services required by Welsh schools, based in Cardiff. This includes dealing with the Welsh Assembly and Estyn. WISC is now incorporated as a separate company and ISC has a WISC Board seat. ISC contributes financially –in effect diverting some of the subs raised by Welsh schools- to WISC.

JR summer 2016

ⁱ AGBIS, GSA, HMC, IAPS, ISA, ISBA, Society of Heads