

# ISC ANNUAL CENSUS 2025

The ISC annual Census was carried out in January 2025. 1,423 schools in UK membership of the constituent associations completed the survey. The Census covers 545,640 pupils and provides a detailed snapshot of the schools and of the wider social and economic trends in the UK.

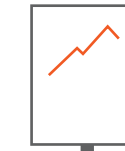


**Schools**  
**1,423**

The total number of schools in the ISC Census. This is an increase of 12 from last year's total of 1,411.

**Pupils**  
**545,640**

The number of pupils across all schools in ISC. This is a decrease of 2% from the 2024 Census.



**New pupils**  
**102,544**

This represents a decrease of 5.2% from the 2024 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**  
**825**

Over half of all ISC schools are not academically selective. A further 236 schools have academic selection only for some age ranges.

**Median school size**  
**273**

Half of schools have under 273 pupils and one quarter of schools have under 142 pupils.



**Means-tested assistance**  
**£547m**

The amount provided in means-tested fee assistance for pupils at ISC schools. Over 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 £1.5 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**  
**25,526**

There are 25,526 pupils in ISC schools whose parents live overseas. This represents 4.7% of all pupils and brings cultural diversity to our schools.



**Charitable work**  
**£9.5m+**

At least £9.5 million was raised for charities at ISC schools and 951 schools organised volunteering opportunities for staff and/or pupils.



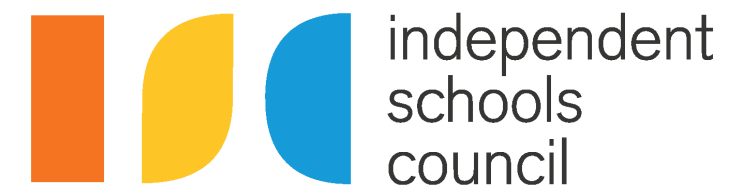
**Partnerships**  
**9,301**

Schools reported 9,301 partnerships in the calendar year 2024.



**SEND**  
**117,618**

The number of pupils at ISC schools who have been identified as having SEND. Over 108,147 receive support without being in receipt of an education, health and care plan. (EHCP).



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