

# Independent schools 'provide millions' in fee assistance

The Scottish Council for Independent Schools (SCIS) claim in a new report that they have provided over £51 million in [fee assistance](#) in the current academic year.

There are 74 member schools, of which 19 are situated in Edinburgh, and SCIS assert that figures provided by their members show that almost a quarter of mainstream pupils received financial assistance towards fees of £30.8 million. 3% of pupils received 100% support, and a further £20.3 million was awarded on a non means-tested basis by way of sibling discount, scholarships and staff discounts.

This is an increase of almost £2.5 million on the previous year.



John Edward Director of SCIS

John Edward, Director of SCIS, said: "This results of the research into fee assistance in the independent sector demonstrates our absolute commitment to widening access to independent education in Scotland.

"We are responsible for educating 30,000 children around the country and the availability of fee assistance is something the sector is hugely proud of and works hard to achieve. We have seen a steady and significant increase in the bursaries available rising from £24,588,023 in 2009/2010 to the current figure of £51,109,478.

"This is a significant financial commitment for schools – all of which are not-for-profit – as the budget for fee assistance must come from cash reserves once salaries and other operational expenses have been paid."

John added: "Scotland's independent sector provides choice, diversity and excellence for Scotland's young people and we will continue to work hard to safeguard fee assistance despite the impact of the Barclay review which will cost the sector £5 million a year."

**The member schools in Edinburgh are :**

Basil Paterson Middle School

Cargilfield

Clifton Hall School

Dunedin School

Edinburgh Montessori Arts School

The Edinburgh Academy

Edinburgh Steiner School

ESMS Junior School

Fettes College

George Heriot's School

George Watson's College

Harmeny School

The Mary Erskine School

Merchiston Castle School

Regius School

Royal Blind School

St George's School for Girls

St Mary's Music School

Stewart's Melville College