

'Independent schools are better than state schools' Evaluate this claim.

In the British education system, parents have a choice where they send their children. They have a choice of two types of school, State schools and independent schools. A state school is one funded by the government, through taxation, and is free of charge to all pupils. The other types of schools, independent schools are funded by tuition fees paid by parents of the pupils, and any donations received. Within the category of independent schools, there are two subcategories. The two types of independent schools are public and private. Public schools are usually the most oldest, expensive and well known. Some examples of public schools are Eton and Harrow; these schools charge around £25,000 a year. The other type of independent schools is private schools. These are the less known schools, and charge £5,000-10,000 a year. Some examples of private schools in Leicester are St. Crispin's, Leicester Montessori and Loughborough Grammar. In this essay, I will state arguments for and against children being sent to independent schools, and then I will write a conclusion, summing up my arguments and making a decision on whether they are better.

One reason why parents send their children to independent schools is that they have smaller class sizes, so the children get more attention. In 1995-96, there was 1 teacher for every 10 children, whereas in state schools there was 1 teacher for every 19 pupils. These smaller class sizes mean that it is easier for children to learn, as there is less distractions and more one to one time. Another reason that children are sent to independent schools is that because they have more money, then they can afford better facilities. Better text books, equipment and buildings means that children can have a better quality of education and also a better chance to learn.

As well as parents choosing to send their children to independent schools, some parents may choose to keep their children attending state schools; this is because they believe that there are disadvantages to independent schools. One such disadvantage of independent schools is that children do not learn to get on with others. As state schools do not discriminate on who is enrolled, there is usually a range of students from a wide range of backgrounds. This variety of cultures means that children learn to get on and tolerate people from other backgrounds. This doesn't happen in independent schools as students are only from a particular background. Another disadvantage that independent schools have is that these schools are usually boarding, so the pupils do not have regular contact with their parents. This means that children become distanced from their parents.

I have stated the advantages and disadvantages of independent schools, and I think that the advantages of an independent school are equal to the disadvantages. This means that I think there is no

difference between the two, and it is just the parent's choice about what type of education they want for their child.