

## **ISC lambasts Government's proposed children's database**

The Independent Schools Council (ISC) has delivered a scathing critique of the lack of security of the national children's database which is to be established under the Children Act 2004.

It is proposed that the database will collate in respect of all children in England and Wales:

- The child's name, address, gender and date of birth
- Details of the child's school
- Details of any specialists or targeted services provided for the child
- Details of any primary medical services provided for the child
- The name and contact details of any person with parental responsibility or care of the child
- The name and address of any claimant of child benefit in respect of the child
- Other information as may be requested by the Secretary of State.

According to the ISC, claims that the database, which will be accessible to more than 300,000 people, will be 'secure' are unsupported by any published evidence. Nor does the Council accept that there is a need for a database of all children, but only of those children identified as being at risk. It estimates that whilst on the Government's own figures, less than 30% of children will benefit from the database, more will be jeopardised by inclusion in the system.