

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
Textphone 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ofsted

Direct T 0300 013 0210
Direct F 020 7421 6546
michael.wilshaw@ofsted.gov.uk



22 December 2016

Dr Christine Ryan
Chief Inspector
Independent Schools Inspectorate
Cap House
9–12 Long Lane
London
EC1A 9HA

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Chief Inspector

Annual report on the quality of inspection work by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in the academic year 2015/16

Please find enclosed a copy of the 2015/16 annual report of the Independent Schools Inspectorate, which I have sent to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon. Justine Greening MP, today. The annual report will also be published on Ofsted's website. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and professionalism during the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Wilshaw'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized.

Sir Michael Wilshaw

22 December 2016

The Rt Hon. Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Dear Secretary of State

Annual report on the quality of the inspection work carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in the academic year 2015/16

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the quality of the inspection work carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in 2015/16. The report will be published on Ofsted's website.

During 2015/16, the Department for Education did not commission Ofsted to carry out any on-site monitoring of the ISI during its inspections. Ofsted's monitoring role this year has therefore been limited to the evaluation of a sample of inspection reports published by the inspectorate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wilshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'M'.

Sir Michael Wilshaw

Annual report on the quality of the inspection work carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in the academic year 2015/16

Introduction

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is approved by the Secretary of State for Education to inspect selected registered independent schools with membership of the associations that make up the Independent Schools Council, including their registered early years provision and boarding provision.¹

Under section 107(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has a duty to prepare and send a report to the Secretary of State about the inspectorates for independent schools, at intervals of no more than a year. HMCI must have regard, under section 107(2), to matters that the Secretary of State may direct about the form and contents of the report.

The Secretary of State's directions to HMCI are set out in Annex A of the 'Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for Ofsted's monitoring of the independent inspectorates for independent schools in England' (June 2016). Ofsted's monitoring of ISI's work since June 2016 has been carried out in line with this MoU. Prior to the MoU, the 'Protocol between Ofsted and the approved independent inspectorates' (February 2015) was in place.

Independent Schools Inspectorate's inspection activity for 2015/16

ISI carried out 342 inspections during the academic year 2015/16.

Ofsted's monitoring of the Independent Schools Inspectorate in 2015/16

Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) reviewed seven published inspection reports. The Department for Education did not commission Ofsted to carry out any on-site monitoring of ISI inspections.

All seven reports sampled were of regulatory compliance inspections. The regulatory compliance inspection handbook states that the purpose of such inspections is to make clear the extent to which the school meets or does not meet the various Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations (ISSR) and, depending on the type of school, the related early years foundation stage (EYFS) requirements and/or the national minimum standards for boarding schools (NMS). The guidance for schools and inspectors states that 'reports should contain only the level of illustration necessary to exemplify the judgement of not met, and should not deviate

¹ Under Section 106 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, as set out in the agreement of 13 January 2015 between the Department for Education and ISI.

from the wording included in the report template where regulations and standards are met.' The guidance also states that reporting should, as far as possible, focus on 'outcomes' rather than provision.

Findings

- The reports are written in accordance with the inspectorate's guidance regarding a compliance-only inspection. Inspectors have judged the schools' compliance 'without using value-laden terms and only employing them sparingly.'
- The reports make clear that all the independent school standards have been met. There are few underpinning comments within the reports to show how the schools meet the standards. This is in line with the reporting requirements set out in the inspectorate's handbook.
- For each part of the standards that have been met, the reports provide a brief commentary based on the wording of the independent schools standards. For example, all seven reports state that 'the teaching enables pupils to make good progress.'
- The reports comment succinctly on the schools' arrangements for safeguarding.