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The Rt Hon. Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
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Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Secretary of State

**Annual report on the quality of the inspection work carried out by the
inspectories of British schools overseas 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 inspectorates of British schools overseas 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 work of the inspectorates of British schools overseas. Ofsted's monitoring role this year has therefore been limited to the evaluation of a sample of inspection reports published by the inspectorates.

Yours sincerely

Sir Michael Wilshaw

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Introduction

British schools overseas may choose to be inspected against the British schools overseas standards by one of the seven approved overseas inspectorates. The Department for Education (DfE) commissions Ofsted to monitor and report on the quality of the approved inspectorates' work.

The inspectorates of British schools overseas' inspection activity for 2015/6

During the 2015/16 academic year, the seven approved inspectorates conducted 55 inspections across 25 countries.

Ofsted's monitoring of the inspectorates of British schools overseas in 2015/16

In the course of Ofsted's monitoring of the inspectorates in 2015/2016, Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) reviewed nine inspection reports. The DfE did not commission Ofsted to carry out any on-site monitoring of the work of the inspectorates of British schools overseas.

Findings

- The inspectorates' reports sampled this year provide a detailed evaluation of the effectiveness of schools' provision. They provide an insight into the schools' British character.
- The schools' arrangements for safeguarding pupils are outlined clearly and in detail in the reports. The majority of reports provide helpful explanations and examples of how the schools work to keep pupils safe in a range of situations.
- The schools' promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is well reported. The reports provide good exemplification of the schools' work to promote fundamental British values. This includes, in some instances, examples of how the school assists pupils for returning to the British education system.
- The views of pupils and parents are included in some of the reports, but this is not consistent across all of the reports.
- One of the inspectorates' frameworks does not include grade descriptors and advises its inspectors to 'draw upon the grade descriptors in Ofsted's school inspection handbook (2015) to help guide decisions about judgement grades'. However, it is not always clear how inspectors have used this guidance to arrive at their judgements. In one report, it is not clear how judgements regarding

pupils' progress have been made. In another, information that might be expected to be included, such as the views of parents, is not included.

- Some reports contain contradictory statements. For example, one report states that 'the attitudes of the pupils to learning are excellent.' However, in the main body of the report, there is a reference to some classes being characterised by disengagement and low-level disruption. The same report states that pupils have a wide range of abilities, but does not state whether the high standard of attainment achieved by pupils represents good progress.
- One inspection handbook contains reference to a section entitled, 'guidance on making judgements'. However, this section is missing from the handbook. It is not always clear, therefore, how the judgements have been arrived at.
- One inspection report provided a judgement for the post-16 provision. However, the inspectorate's framework does not include this element of the school's work in the list of areas covered. In addition, there are no guidance or grade criteria to support inspectors in their judgement for post-16 provision. It is not clear how the judgement has been made.

No analysis can be made of the overall performance of individual overseas inspectorates because the volume of inspections for each inspectorate is too low to provide a useful assessment.

Recommendations

Ofsted recommends that each inspectorate should strengthen its quality assurance arrangements and ensure that:

- inspectors make consistent judgements regarding pupils' progress
- the information provided in reports is clear and unambiguous
- inspectors consistently report the views of pupils and parents
- inspection handbooks provide inspectors with comprehensive guidance.