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2 March 2018

The Rt Hon. Damian Hinds MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
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**Amanda Spielman**  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Damian,

**Annual report on the quality of inspection work by the inspectorates of British schools overseas in 2016/17**

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 2016/17. The report will be published on Ofsted's website.

During 2016/17, 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 evaluating a sample of inspection reports published by the inspectorates.

Yours sincerely

**Amanda Spielman**  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

## Annual report on the quality of inspection work by the inspectorates of British schools overseas in 2016/17

### 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 British schools overseas inspectorates' inspection activity for 2016/17

During the 2016/17 academic year, the seven approved inspectorates carried out 71 inspections across 26 countries.

Inspectorate	Number of inspections by the inspectorates	Number of reports sampled by Ofsted
Cambridge Education	5	1
G2G	0	0
Education Development Trust (Formerly CfBT)	10	1
Independent Schools Inspectorate	24	1
Penta	26	2
School Inspection Service	6	1
Tribal	0	0

### Ofsted's monitoring of the British schools overseas inspectorates in 2016/2017

As commissioned by the DfE, Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) reviewed six inspection reports. The DfE did not commission any on-site visits in the academic year.

### Findings

- The six reports reviewed complied with the individual inspectorates' inspection guidance.
- The reports provided a detailed evaluation of the quality of each school's provision. They exemplified how the schools meet the standards for British schools overseas.
- In two of the reports by one inspectorate, inspectors have provided qualitative judgements about the school's provision. However, it is not clear how inspectors reached these qualitative judgements, because the inspectorate's inspection handbook does not provide detailed guidance to inspectors on making judgements. A recommendation in HMCI's 2015/16 annual report was

that the inspectorates should provide inspectors with comprehensive inspection handbooks, including guidance on making judgements.

- On occasions, the qualitative judgements that inspectors arrived at did not match the information contained within the report.
- In one report, the recommendations lacked sufficient clarity and precision to ensure that they helped the school to resolve the areas of weakness that inspectors identified.
- Nearly all of the reports clearly outlined the schools' arrangements for safeguarding pupils. Most of the reports provided detailed information about how the schools kept pupils safe.
- While many of the reports did include the views of pupils and parents, this was not the case for all. The inclusion of pupils' and parents' views was a recommendation in HMCI's 2015/16 annual report.
- Almost all of the sampled reports provided detailed information about how schools supported pupils in their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **Recommendations**

Ofsted recommends that, in line with the recommendation that we made in the 2015/16 report, all inspectorates ensure that:

- their inspection handbooks include detailed guidance on making judgements
- inspectors consistently report on the views of pupils and parents.