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

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 2017/18

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 2017/18. The report will be published on Ofsted's website.

During 2017/18, the Department for Education commissioned Ofsted to review a small sample of inspection reports published by the inspectorates.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Spielman

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Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

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Introduction

British schools overseas may choose to be inspected against the British schools overseas standards by one of the five 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 2017/18

During the 2017/18 academic year, the five approved inspectorates carried out 50 inspections across 31 countries.

Inspectorate	Number of inspections by the inspectorates	Number of reports sampled by Ofsted
Cambridge Education	3	1
Education Development Trust	5	1
Independent Schools Inspectorate	15	1
Penta	15	1
School Inspection Service	12	1

Ofsted's monitoring of the British schools overseas inspectorates in 2017/2018

As commissioned by the DfE, Ofsted reviewed five inspection reports. The DfE did not commission any on-site visits in the academic year.

Findings

- The reports reviewed capture the uniqueness of each school well, including by providing examples of pupils' day-to-day experiences.
- The reports reviewed provide a detailed evaluation of the quality of each school's provision, including a comprehensive consideration of the effectiveness of the schools' leadership and management.
- All of the reports reviewed provide comprehensive information about the schools' arrangements to keep pupils safe. Almost all make clear how pupils learn how to be safe, including when online.
- Each report comments on how the school promotes pupils' understanding of fundamental British values, including the need to show respect to those of different faiths and cultures. However, none of the reports reviewed comments on how the schools promote respect for other people, particularly those whose differences meet the protected characteristics set out in the

Equality Act 2010. Consequently, the reports do not provide sufficient evidence that the schools have met this standard for British schools overseas.

- For all of the remaining standards, the reports reviewed provide detailed accounts of whether the schools meet the standards or not.
- The reports reviewed this year demonstrate that inspectors have considered the views of pupils and parents. The lack of such demonstration was a recommendation from the annual reports for 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- In most of the reports reviewed, inspectors' qualitative judgements of the school's provision match the findings within the report's summary. In two reports, however, it is unclear how inspectors have arrived at their overall judgements, considering the evidence within the reports' summaries.
- Recommendations do not always align with the weaknesses identified within the report. For example, one report identifies a significant weakness that does not have a corresponding recommendation. In three reports, there are recommendations that are not supported by sufficient evidence of weaknesses within the report's summary.
- Occasionally, the recommendations lack sufficient clarity and precision regarding the improvement they intend to bring about. Consequently, the rationale or the purpose of the recommendations is not always clear.

Recommendations

Ofsted recommends that:

- overall judgements about the quality of the school's provision match the findings within the report's summary
- recommendations for improvement address all the important weaknesses identified within the report's summary, and do so with clarity and precision
- reports provide sufficient evidence to identify whether schools meet the standard for British schools overseas that relates to the encouragement of pupils' respect for other people, paying particular regard to all of the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.