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19 July 2019

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 Independent Schools Inspectorate in 2018/19

During 2018/19, the Department for Education did not commission Ofsted to undertake any monitoring of ISI. Ofsted has therefore only reported on the number of inspections conducted by ISI in 2018/19.

Consequently, Ofsted does not have the necessary evidence to be able to make any comment, in this report, to the Secretary of State on ISI's suitability as an independent inspectorate.

You asked for a new approach to be taken to monitoring in future academic years. Proposals for collaborative working to develop and inform inspection practice across Ofsted and ISI have been agreed. From 2019/20, I will therefore prepare my report under those new arrangements, once those new directions have been issued.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

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19 July 2019

Kate Richards
Chief Inspector
Independent Schools Inspectorate
Cap House
9–12 Long Lane
London
EC1A 9HA

Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Kate

Annual report on the quality of inspection work by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in 2018/19

Please find enclosed a copy of the 2018/19 annual report for the Independent Schools Inspectorate, which I have today sent to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon. Damian Hinds MP. The annual report will also be published on Ofsted's website. I look forward to working with you next year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Spielman".

Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Annual report on the quality of inspection work by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in the academic year 2018/19

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 for Ofsted's monitoring of the independent inspectorates for independent schools in England'.

Independent Schools Inspectorate's inspection activity for 2018/19

ISI carried out 399 inspections during the academic year 2018/19.

Ofsted's monitoring of the Independent Schools Inspectorate in 2018/19

The Department for Education did not commission Ofsted to undertake any monitoring activity in 2018/19.

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.