British schools overseas – an evaluation of the first year of inspection in British schools overseas

The Standards for British schools overseas came into effect on 1 September 2010. They are modelled closely on The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2001 used in England and thus enable comparisons to be drawn between British schools overseas and their counterparts in England. Membership of the scheme is voluntary: schools may choose to be inspected against the Standards by one of the six approved overseas inspection service providers. These are Cambridge Education; CfBT Education Trust; G2G Education Ltd; Independent Schools Inspectorate; Penta International; and Tribal Education Ltd. The Department for Education commissioned Ofsted to monitor and report on the quality of the inspections of British schools overseas.[1]

There has been a slow start to the scheme, with the volume of inspections in this first year of operation being lower than anticipated: nine inspections were completed by July 2011 and, as part of the agreed monitoring arrangements, Ofsted has so far monitored two inspections of British schools overseas. The two inspections were judged to meet the requirements set out by the Department for Education. No analysis can be made of the performance of each of the independent overseas inspection providers at this early stage; however, a sound start has been made by all six. As the volume of inspections increases, it is Ofsted's intention to publish individual reports for each inspection provider on an annual basis in future years.

All the reports on British schools overseas are available from the Department for Education's website at: www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/bso/a0077259/school-inspection-reports.

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[1] *Protocol between Ofsted and the approved independent overseas inspection providers for British schools overseas* (100254), Ofsted, 2011; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/protocol-between-ofsted-and-approved-independent-overseas-inspection-providers-for-british-schools-o.