

British Schools overseas report

An evaluation of the second year of inspection in British schools overseas

Published: September 2012

Reference no: 110110



Corporate member of
Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer communication

361

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/110110.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 110110

© Crown copyright 2012



Introduction

1. The Standards for British schools overseas came into effect on 1 September 2010. They are modelled closely on The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2010 used in independent schools in England and thus enable comparisons to be drawn between British schools overseas and their counterparts in England. The inspection of British schools overseas 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. Recently, the Department for Education approved a partnership between the Dubai School Inspection Bureau and CfBT to conduct inspections of British schools overseas in Dubai. The Department for Education has commissioned Ofsted to monitor and report on the quality of the inspections of British schools overseas.¹

Monitoring of British school overseas inspections

2. This is the second year in which the inspection of British schools overseas has been in operation, and there has been increasing participation in the scheme. The volume of inspections this year has doubled: 20 inspections were completed in total between July 2011 and July 2012 by five of the approved inspection providers. As part of the agreed monitoring arrangements, Ofsted has monitored on-site two inspections of British schools overseas which took place in the Middle East. Both were judged to meet the requirements set out by the Department for Education (DfE). The strengths of these inspections were the deployment of inspectors who have extensive experience in British schools overseas, the rigour of the evidence gathered to ensure schools are meeting the DfE standards for British schools overseas and the effective communications between the inspection provider and the schools. The schools involved expressed positive views about their inspection experience. Additionally, Ofsted reviewed two inspection reports which were also judged to meet the requirements. Also, Ofsted conducted an analysis of all the reports published between July 2011 and March 2012. This revealed that in the main, the reports meet the DfE requirements. Strengths in reporting included accurate assessments of the school's overall performance, clear main findings sections and useful background information on the British nature and characteristics of the school. Variations in reporting were found including the format and structure of the reports, the clarity of reporting on pupil's progress and the extent of links made between the impact of leaders' actions in the school on the outcomes for pupils. These points and others, including the need to include the

¹ Protocol between Ofsted and the approved independent overseas inspection providers for British schools overseas (100254), Ofsted, 2012; www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/protocol-between-ofsted-and-approved-independent-overseas-inspection-providers-for-british-schools-o.

names of inspectors in the report, have been shared with the inspection providers in order to bring about improvement.

3. No analysis can be made of the individual performance of each of the independent overseas inspection providers at this stage, since volumes for each are still comparatively low, but Ofsted is confident that the system as a whole continues to operate effectively. As the volume of inspections increases, it is Ofsted's intention to publish individual reports for each inspection provider on an annual basis.
4. British schools overseas exist in many forms. Many are members of associations such as the Council of British International Schools (COBIS), The Federation of British International Schools in South East Asia and East Asia (FOBISSEA), the British Schools of the Middle East (BSME) and the National Association of British Schools in Spain (NABSS). Some schools were originally set up to provide education for an expatriate community and have a long history of providing a British curriculum; others have been set up more recently to provide a British education for international students or students of the host country whose parents want them to be educated in English. Many schools provide an extensive range of extra-curricular activities which make wide use of the international links provided through parents and carers and their employers. The schools inspected thus far are mainly well established and well known international schools but British schools overseas vary considerably in size and type overall. The inspection outcomes of the schools inspected under the British schools overseas scheme so far show overwhelmingly strong performance with good or outstanding features in most cases.
5. The map below gives an indication of where the British schools which have already been inspected under the British schools overseas scheme are located.



© Google 2012

All the reports on British schools overseas are available from the Department for Education's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/bs/a0077259/school-inspection-reports.