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The Rt Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE 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 Gavin

Annual report on the quality of inspection work by the inspectorates of British schools overseas in 2018/19

I am pleased to present my annual report on the quality of the inspection work carried out by the inspectorates of British schools overseas in 2018/19. The report will be published on Ofsted's website. Simon Hollingsworth HMI, the national lead for independent schools, has also discussed the findings with your officials.

During 2018/19, 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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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.

During the 2018/19 academic year, the five approved inspectorates carried out 48 inspections across 21 countries.

Ofsted's monitoring of the British schools overseas inspectorates in 2018/2019

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

Inspectorate	Number of inspections by the inspectorates	Number of reports sampled by Ofsted
Cambridge Education	1	1
Education Development Trust	6	2
Independent Schools Inspectorate	12	2
Penta	29	2

Findings

- The reports reviewed capture each school's unique nature well. The reports provide contextual information about the schools, including about pupils' backgrounds, the community within which the schools are located, and the curriculum the schools offer.
- The sampled reports provide sufficient exemplification of how the schools meet the standards for British schools overseas.
- In almost all the reports reviewed, the summary provides clear justification for the judgements that inspectors have made. In one report, the report's findings do not sufficiently support all the inspection judgements.
- All the reports provide a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of the schools' arrangements for keeping pupils safe. Common features on which the reports comment relating to safeguarding include: how well pupils feel that they are listened to when they have a concern; the school's recruitment

procedures; the safeguarding training that staff receive; and the effectiveness of the safeguarding policy.

- The reporting on the effectiveness of leadership and management, including those responsible for governance, is comprehensive in six of the reports reviewed. In one report, the consideration of the impact of leaders' work on key aspects of the school's performance is limited.
- All the sampled reports evaluate how well schools promote pupils' personal development, particularly in relation to pupils' understanding of the nature of diversity and of their need to respect other people.
- However, it is not clear from some of the report summaries whether inspectors have considered the protected characteristics when evaluating the effectiveness with which the schools promote respect for other people.
- Five of the reports provide schools with carefully considered recommendations for improvement that focus precisely on the main weaknesses that inspectors have found in the schools' provisions. In two of the reports, the recommendations lack sufficient clarity and do not align closely enough to the weaker aspects of the schools' provisions, as identified in the reports' summaries.
- All the sampled reports refer to pupils' views, while all but one refer to parents' views. It is clear, then, that inspectors have considered the views of pupils and parents when evaluating the effectiveness of the schools' provisions. However, it is less clear how far inspectors have taken into account the views of staff. In three of the sampled reports, there is no reference to the views of staff, while in a fourth report, the consideration of staff views is limited.

Recommendations

Ofsted recommends that:

- reports demonstrate clearly how inspectors have considered the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 when reporting on whether schools meet the standards for British schools overseas that relate to the encouragement of pupils' respect for other people
- inspectors consistently report on the views of staff.