



Department
for Education

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Vaness Ward
Chief Inspector
Independent Schools Inspectorate
CAP House
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1 September 2021

Dear Chief Inspector,

Standard Inspections of Independent Schools

I am writing about the future inspection of those independent schools that the Independent Schools Inspectorate (“ISI”) are approved to inspect under section 106 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 (“ISC schools”).

This letter sets out arrangements about standard inspections of ISC schools, following the suspension of these inspections and other inspections due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which was confirmed in Peter Swift’s 29 May 2020 letter to Kate Richards.

A “standard inspection” of a school is an inspection of a school against each of the independent educational institution standards that apply in relation to it.

ISI will resume the current cycle of standard inspections of ISC schools, which began in 2019 (following Peter Swift’s 18 July 2018 letter to inspectorates), from 1 September 2021 and a report will be made to the Secretary of State of each inspection. The current cycle, however, is extended to end on 31 August 2023 (rather than in summer 2022 as set out in Peter Swift’s letter of 18 July 2018 to Kate Richards). Therefore, all ISC schools that have not been subject to a standard inspection since 18 July 2018, are to receive such an inspection, as part of the current cycle, by 31 July 2023.

The Secretary of State’s expectations set out in the Annex to the letter, dated 27th April 2017 from Peter Swift to Kate Richards (relating to ISI’s approval under section 106 of the Education and Skills Act 2008), continue to apply and therefore, where relevant to these

standard inspections. Consequently, for example, ISI will carry out these inspections in accordance with their published inspection framework¹, and their timing will be arranged in accordance with paragraph 20 of that Annex.

Additional inspections and progress monitoring as well as other types of non-routine inspections of ISC Schools will continue to be arranged, between us, on a case-by-case basis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Swift', written in a cursive style.

Peter Swift

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education
Deputy Director
Independent Education and School Safeguarding Division

¹ <https://www.isi.net/support/publications/isi-inspection-framework>