

Inspection of British schools overseas



Education
Development
Trust

Education Development Trust is a leading not-for-profit independent provider of education and training services, operating worldwide with headquarters in the UK and offices in the United Arab Emirates and Africa. Education Development Trust has been authorised by the UK government through the Department for Education (DfE) to serve as one of the accredited inspectorates responsible for conducting the inspection of British schools overseas against standards identified by the DfE and monitored by Ofsted.

What is the value of the inspection process?

An official inspection provides a school with an external validation of its standards. The inspection report serves as a point of reference for the school and the report provides verified information for parents and members of the school community. For a British school overseas seeking comparison to schools in the UK, a BSO inspection will provide a benchmark based on standards determined by the Department for Education that will be monitored and quality assured by Ofsted. The inspection report will provide the school with a recognised point of reference for parents and members of its community that will be posted via the Ofsted website.

Why seek inspection with EDT?

British schools overseas that seek to be inspected have the right to choose their preferred inspection provider; naturally they will consider the needs of their school and the nature of the inspection process delivered by their chosen provider.

As an experienced leader in the field of inspection, EDT provides schools with:

- high standards, rigour and consistency in inspection delivery;
- more than 20 years inspection experience gained in the UK and overseas;
- credibility as one of Ofsted's former major inspection providers;
- international experience in the field of school quality assurance, gained from establishing the Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) and EDT's International Schools Quality Mark accreditation system, as well as developing inspections systems and inspector training for the UAE and Bahrain; and
- well qualified and suitably experienced inspectors with an understanding of the international context.

As an international not-for-profit organisation, we recognise the importance of understanding the cultural context whilst working towards high standards and encouraging school improvement.

What are the advantages of EDT's inspection process?

EDT recognises the importance of a clear inspection framework and the need for consistent standards to be applied within the inspection process. To that end we regard the quality of the inspectors and the process of quality assurance as key priorities in providing a reputable and reliable service that offers value for money.

How does EDT's inspection process work for British schools overseas?

All inspections are organised from the UK, although EDT has the advantage of a global presence with offices in different regions of the world. EDT inspection teams will vary in size, with between three and five inspectors on site, conducting a visit over a three to five day period, which will be determined according to the size and complexity of the school seeking inspection.

Step 1: Initial school enquiry

Contact EDT's head office for general details of inspection requirements and answers to any specific questions.

Step 2: Registration process

The school is required to complete registration papers with an initial registration fee. The registration papers include provision of factual details of the school, confirmation of the preferred timeframe, eligibility and relevant logistics to be conducted by EDT.

Step 3: Initial inspection arrangements

Preparatory arrangements will be confirmed by EDT once the school has submitted its self-evaluation form. Information provided by EDT after this will include all details of the inspection team, and the anticipated inspection schedule and requirements, which will be tailored to the needs of the school and relevant logistics.

Step 4: Inspection visit and schedule

The onsite inspection visit will be conducted according to DfE standards by a team of qualified inspectors selected to meet the needs of the school. The team will inspect the school, gathering evidence through observations, visits, interviews and sampling of students' work, concluding with oral feedback and a subsequent written report.

Step 5: Written report

After the onsite inspection visit, a draft written report is prepared and delivered to the school to be checked for any factual errors. Following the conclusion of the inspection, quality assurance and monitoring process by Ofsted, the final report will be posted via the DfE website.

Recognition and tenure of validation

The inspection report represents an official picture or validation of the school and its standards at the time of the inspection visit. It will serve as a point of reference for three years against the standards set by the DfE and Ofsted. Reports will be posted on the Ofsted website for for a period of three years; after this a school would be expected to seek to be inspected again.

As one of the approved independent inspectorates for British schools overseas EDT will be responsible for delivering an inspection service that is conducted in accordance with the standards and protocols agreed by the UK Government's Department of Education (DfE) and monitored by Ofsted.

Further information on the services offered by EDT to international schools can be found on our website at www.educationdevelopmenttrust.com.

Education Development Trust

At Education Development Trust, we transform lives around the world by improving education. Whether we are working with governments on national educational reform or directly with clusters of schools to effect positive change, our specialist knowledge means we design and deliver effective, far-reaching, sustainable education solutions tailored to the local context.

We run long-term educational programmes as well as deliver short-term consultancy and our range of services includes:

Designing and implementing school system reform – from designs for whole education systems to individual improvement programmes for clusters of schools; Using our world-leading expertise on school inspection and external quality review to develop, manage and deliver inspection programmes and other quality management programmes; Delivering specialist expertise and recruitment services for English language teaching around the world; Providing expert careers advice and guidance systems and services to governments and schools; Supporting school improvement in both private and government schools.

We invest annually in our programme of educational research because it matters to us that policy makers make informed decisions and that teachers benefit from the latest best practice. Our research underpins our work and we are passionate about being part of the education debate. For more information on our services for international schools, contact us.

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