



BSME | Accreditation

BRITISH SCHOOLS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

BSME accreditation is underpinned by the following principles:

1. Accreditation must be carried out by one of the three external inspectorates approved by the Department for Education (DfE) and monitored by Ofsted.
2. The purpose of inspection is school improvement; the accreditation process and framework/s must reflect this.
3. We will collaborate with other member organisations who share our philosophy of excellence to the benefit of our members.

The Department for Education (DfE) will extend BSO accreditation for schools whose inspections have been impacted by COVID-19. If you would like to apply for an extension, please contact BritishSchools.OVERSEAS@education.gov.uk



Option A: BSO

British Schools Overseas (BSOs) are schools that have been inspected under the DfE-endorsed framework which is quality assured by Ofsted. BSO is the only accreditation framework approved by the DfE for international schools.

BSO schools:

- may market their school as a “BSO school” and use/display the BSO logo
- are listed on the DfE website with a Get Information About Schools (GIAS) number, as are their inspection reports
- can hire and induct Early Career Teachers from the United Kingdom
- can fast track Assessment Only route graduates for Induction
- are eligible to attend the annual Association of British Schools Overseas (AoBSO) conference

If you would like to book a BSO inspection, please contact the [DfE approved inspectorate](#) of your choice.

Option B: Approved local framework + external validation

This option reflects BSME’s focus on collaboration with Ministries of Education (MoE) that offer robust school evaluation frameworks and share BSME’s standards of high quality education. Where BSME Principals are in agreement that a local MoE Framework meets these requirements, BSME will have these frameworks “tested” by a DfE inspectorate to confirm its rigour and comparability to frameworks like the BSO framework.

The UAE Inspection Framework is one such robust framework. Therefore, to satisfy the accreditation principle of external validation, and to satisfy the element of Britishness, BSME schools in the UAE will be required to undertake the Penta International Framework: Standards and Criteria for evaluating the extent to which a school can sensibly be referred to as being ‘British’. This framework was successfully piloted in 5 BSME schools in Dubai in 2017 – 2018, with positive feedback from all schools about the framework and the inspection process.

Please note: Should regulators in the UAE require the BSO framework as a test of a school’s Britishness, BSME will accept this as accreditation for membership (see Option A).

Option C: Other approved membership organisation accreditation + external validation

BSME’s collaboration with membership organisations, like CIS and COBIS, that offer robust school evaluation frameworks and share BSME’s standards of what constitutes high quality education, comes to the fore in Option C.

BSME requires schools which already hold a CIS or COBIS Patron’s (not Compliance) Accreditation, to undertake the Penta International Framework: Standards and Criteria for evaluating the extent to which a school can sensibly be referred to as being ‘British’. This framework was successfully piloted in 5 BSME schools in Dubai in 2017 – 2018, with positive feedback from all schools about the framework and the inspection process.

For schools holding a CIS accreditation, the purpose is to evaluate the element of ‘Britishness’, whilst for COBIS, it is to meet the external accreditation principle.