



## Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau and **British Schools** Overseas inspections

### What is British Schools Overseas inspection?

BSO inspection is a scheme for the inspection of British schools overseas, whereby schools are inspected against a set of standards that British schools overseas can choose to adopt. The standards have been produced by the Department for Education (DfE) and apply to all British schools overseas in all parts of the world. Monitoring of BSO inspections is carried out by Ofsted.



BSO inspections will produce separate inspection reports which will be available to parents and prospective parents through the KHDA and DfE websites.

BSO inspection reports inform parents of students in British Schools Overseas and other stakeholders how the standards measure up to those that apply to independent schools in the United Kingdom, taking into account local requirements. Schools meeting the standards will receive the award of “accredited status” by the Department for Education of England and Wales. BSO recognition is valid for three years.

An essential element of BSO inspection is the extent to which the British character of schools is evident in their ethos, curriculum, teaching, care for students and students’ achievements. By meeting BSO standards, participating schools will demonstrate that they provide a British education that has similar characteristics to an education in an independent school in the UK.

## **British overseas inspection for schools in Dubai**

The Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) is responsible for inspecting schools in Dubai and currently conducts a regular programme of inspections as part of its responsibility to ensure high quality education in Dubai’s private schools. Since 2008, Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) has evaluated schools and analysed their performance. As a result, many schools have improved the quality of their provision and student outcomes.

In 2011-12, 52 schools in Dubai operated a UK-based curriculum. In order to identify schools that are also “British” in character amongst those that offer a UK-based or international curriculum, KHDA and the Department for Education of England and Wales (DfE) have agreed to provide combined DSIB and British Schools Overseas (BSO) inspections. These will be carried out concurrently by DSIB and CfBT (DfE’s approved provider of BSO inspections), which will consequently minimise disruption to teachers and classes.

The combined inspections are available to all schools in Dubai that consider themselves to be British.

Schools that wish to be licensed as 'British' schools with KHDA should apply for combined DSIB/BSO inspection.

### What are the Standards for British Schools Overseas?

The BSO standards are shown in full on the DfE website [Link to BSO Standards](#) and include the following broad areas:

1. The quality of education provided by the school
2. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
3. The welfare, health and safety of the pupils
4. The suitability of the proprietor and staff
5. The premises and accommodation
6. The provision of information for parents, carers and others
7. The school's procedures for handling complaints
8. The quality of provision for boarding
9. Leadership and management of the school

To be accredited as British, schools must provide evidence that each standard has been reached, ensure that all DSIB inspection requirements are met and confirm that they comply with all regulatory requirements in Dubai.

Schools in Dubai which satisfy the BSO standards will be licensed as "British" by KHDA.





### How does a combined DSIB/BSO inspection work?

Any school that considers itself to be British can apply to be inspected. Some of the standards against which schools will be inspected are common to both DSIB and BSO inspections. However, within BSO inspections some standards relate to the British nature of the school. Schools applying for a combined inspection will wish to be confident that they meet those standards, and are required to complete a registration document and Self-Review Compliance Form as part of the application process.

Schools which wish to be classified as British schools under the Dubai education permit must apply for a combined DSIB/BSO inspection. Interested schools should notify KHDA by the stated date, as communicated by KHDA.

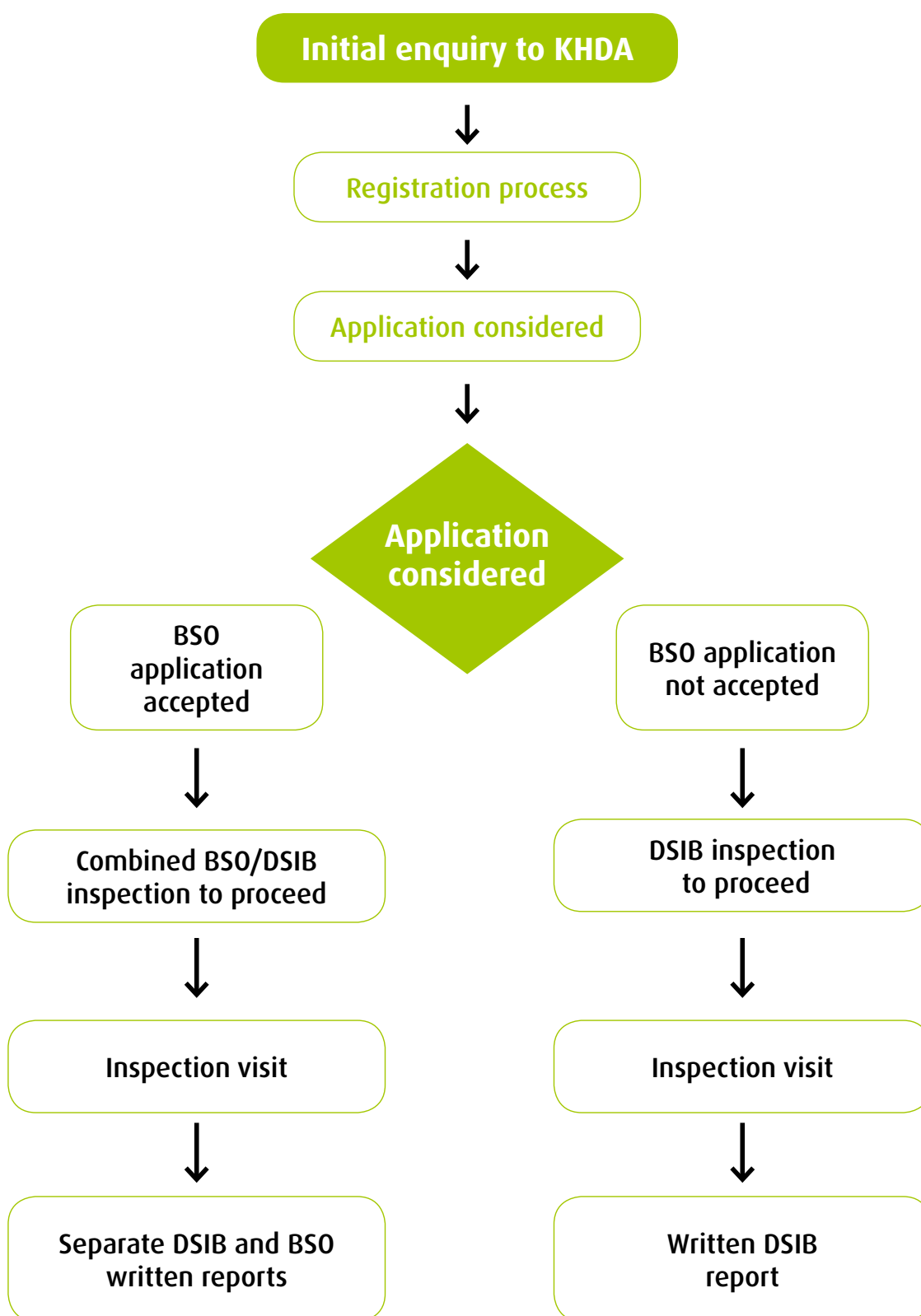
### The registration procedure

- Schools must notify KHDA of their interest in a combined inspection. They may then register for inspection as a British School Overseas by completing an application form. The application form, (which can be accessed by the link on the KHDA website) will require factual information about the school and its composition.
- Schools must also complete the self-review and compliance form, which relates to the Department for Education's standards for British Schools Overseas.
- To apply for a combined DSIB/BSO inspection, schools should send the application form and self-review to KHDA where they will be forwarded to KHDA's partner, CfBT Education Trust, for evaluation.
- Evaluation of each application will incur a cost which schools must meet before the applications can be evaluated.
- Individual schools will be notified as soon as possible thereafter by CfBT Education Trust whether or not their applications for a DSIB /BSO combined inspection during the next academic year have been successful.

## Application process for a DSIB /BSO Inspection

### Flowchart showing the steps in the BSO application

The following steps should be taken by a school in Dubai wishing to apply for a combined DSIB/BSO Inspection during the next academic year.





## Step 1 - Initial school enquiries should be directed to KHDA

- Information and FAQs are available on the KHDA website for reference.
- A British curriculum school in Dubai may apply for a BSO inspection, which would be conducted as a combined DSIB/BSO inspection.
- There is no one definition of a British school overseas, but schools in Dubai that wish to be inspected according to the Department for Education's standards, will need to complete the registration process that will determine whether or not they are eligible for a BSO inspection.
- Schools should notify KHDA [RCC@khda.gov.ae](mailto:RCC@khda.gov.ae), by the date set as communicated by KHDA, of their initial interest in a combined DSIB/BSO inspection.

As noted by the DfE : "An essential element of the inspection is considering the extent to which the British character of the school is evident in its ethos, curriculum, teaching, care for pupils and pupils' achievements".

## Step 2 - Registration process

- The application process to request this option includes completing a Registration form, together with the BSO standards Self-Review Compliance form.
- Schools must complete the Registration form and the BSO School Self-Review, which relates to compliance with the DfE Standards.
- An applicant school must include factual details and reference to the British nature of the school.

- The registration and self-review forms must be submitted electronically to [RCC@khda.gov.ae](mailto:RCC@khda.gov.ae) from where they will be forwarded to CfBT Education Trust. CfBT Education Trust will invoice the school directly for the registration fee.
- The initial registration fee is required by CfBT for their work as the BSO provider responsible for the delivery of the inspection process and for the review of candidate schools.
- The recommendation regarding the eligibility of each BSO application will be made by the BSO provider in relation to the standards and stated criteria. A school will be informed as to whether or not it has been successful in its application for a BSO inspection at the end of this step.

The application review is conducted by CfBT Education Trust as the inspection provider authorised by the DfE working in cooperation with the KHDA.

### Step 3 - Initial Inspection Arrangements

- When a school has completed the registration process and has been accepted for a BSO inspection, CfBT Education Trust will inform DSIB and confirm that the preparatory arrangements are complete.
- Close liaison between CfBT and DSIB will follow regarding the agreed dates for the inspection, the appropriate team members and other logistical arrangements.
- Once these arrangements have been agreed by DSIB and CfBT, the school will be contacted directly by CfBT about the inspection requirements.
- The school will be invoiced directly by CfBT for the fees incurred for the BSO component of the combined DSIB/BSO inspection, [ICGRecruit@cfbt.com](mailto:ICGRecruit@cfbt.com). [Schools are not charged for the DSIB inspection.]





#### Step 4 - Inspection Visit and Schedule

- The on-site combined inspection visit will be conducted against both the DfE's BSO standards and the KHDA's DSIB standards.
- Within this process there are some standards and areas that overlap and some areas that relate to specific standards within each framework.
- The inspection team gathers evidence through observations, visits, interviews and sampling of students' work. Much of the evidence that the school will provide will serve both DSIB and BSO inspections. However, additional evidence will be required specifically for the BSO inspection.
- The combined inspection concludes with two separate oral feedbacks and two subsequent written reports prepared under the direction of the one Lead Inspector. It will be the Lead Inspector's responsibility to determine the deployment for all the inspectors serving on the combined DSIB/BSO team.
- Quality assurance of the inspection visits will be managed by CfBT Education Trust and the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), in cooperation with DSIB.

#### Step 5 - Written Reports

- After the on-site inspection, two separate reports will be prepared against both the BSO and DSIB inspection standards respectively.
- Following the inspection and the delivery of the two inspection reports, appropriate quality assurance and monitoring of the BSO process by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) will continue.
- The normal quality assurance procedures will apply to the DSIB reports.
- The final reports will be posted on the KHDA, DfE and Ofsted websites respectively.