

Accreditation

Accreditation Requirement

All new member schools must gain formal accreditation within **two years** of joining BSME. You may do this via one of the BSO approved inspectorates:

- [Penta International](#)
- [Education Development Trust \(EDT\)](#)
- [Independent Schools Inspectorate \(ISI\)](#)

Accreditation Approach

Our accreditation approach is guided by the following core principles:

1. **Independent, Trusted Evaluation**

Accreditation must be conducted by one of the three approved external inspectorates, who are recognised and quality-assured by the Department for Education (DfE) and monitored by Ofsted. This ensures integrity, transparency, and consistency in the evaluation process.

2. **Focused on Continuous Improvement**

The purpose of accreditation is to drive school improvement. As such, the frameworks and processes we use are designed to support growth, reflection, and high-impact outcomes for students and staff.

3. **Collaborative Excellence**

We actively collaborate with similar membership organisations that share our commitment to educational excellence and aim to enhance value and support for our member schools.

Accreditation Options

Option A: BSO Accreditation

British Schools Overseas (BSOs) are schools that have undergone inspection under the Department for Education (DfE)-endorsed framework, which is quality assured by Ofsted. The BSO framework is currently the only international school accreditation formally approved by the DfE.

BSO schools:

- May market their school as a "BSO school" and display the BSO logo.
- Are listed on the DfE website with a Get Information About Schools (GIAS) number, along with 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.

To book a BSO inspection, contact the DfE approved inspectorate of your choice.

Option B: Approved Local Framework + External Validation

This option reflects our commitment to working collaboratively with **Ministries of Education** (MoEs) that offer robust school evaluation frameworks and share BSMEs commitment to high-quality education standards.

Where BSME Principals agree that a local MoE inspection framework meets the necessary standards of rigour and educational quality, BSME requires that framework to be 'tested' by a Department for Education (DfE) approved inspectorate. This ensures its comparability to recognised frameworks such as the British Schools Overseas (BSO) standard.

The UAE Inspection Framework is one such example of a robust, government-endorsed model. Schools based in the UAE, which have been rated *Good* or better under this framework, may meet our accreditation requirements by completing a 'Britishness top-up' inspection.

This top-up inspection will be based on the Penta International Framework: Standards and Criteria for assessing the extent to which a school aligns with the characteristics of a British international education.

Option C: Other Approved Membership Organisation Accreditation + External Validation

BSME's collaboration with membership organisations such as **CIS** and **COBIS**, both of which offer robust school evaluation frameworks and share BSME's standards for high-quality education is reflected in Option C.

Under this option, schools that already hold accreditation from **CIS** or **COBIS Patron's Accreditation (but not Compliance)** are required to complete an additional evaluation on a BSME Top-Up Framework.

The purpose of this evaluation varies slightly depending on the accreditation body:

- For schools accredited by **CIS**, the focus is on assessing the element of *Britishness*.
- For those accredited by **COBIS**, the requirement helps meet the principle of externally validated accreditation.