

# Office of Education Standards

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Cayman Islands



Presentation to the Standing  
International Conference of  
Inspectorates

November 20, 2025

# About the Cayman Islands

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- The Cayman Islands is a British Overseas Territory located in the Western Caribbean. It is comprised of three Islands – Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.
- The Cayman Islands are situated 480 miles southwest of Miami, about 277 miles south of Cuba, and 310 miles northwest of Jamaica. Cayman Brac is 89 miles northeast of Grand Cayman and Little Cayman is 5 miles west of Cayman Brac.
- Reputed to be discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1503, the first settlers came here in 1638. The Islands were handed over by Spain to Great Britain in 1670 with a larger influx of settlers arriving from early 18th Century. The Cayman Islands were administered as a dependency of Jamaica from 1863. Upon Jamaica's independence, the Cayman Islands opted to become a direct dependency of the British Crown, and received its first constitution in 1959.





NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

CARIBBEAN SEA

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

U.S.

THE BAHAMAS

CUBA

HAITI DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JAMAICA KINGSTON

San Juan Puerto Rico (U.S.)

British Virgin Islands (U.K.)  
Virgin Islands (U.S.)  
BASSETERRE ST. KITTS AND NEVIS  
Montserrat (U.K.)

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
ST. JOHN'S

ROSEAU DOMINICA

Fort-de-France Martinique (FR.)

ST. LUCIA CASTRIES  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES KINGSTOWN  
BARBADOS BRIDGETOWN

ST. GEORGE'S GRENADA

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HOND. NICARAGUA

SAN JOSÉ COSTA RICA

PANAMA

COLOMBIA

BOGOTÁ

VENEZUELA

GUYANA

BRAZIL

Turks and Caicos Islands (U.K.)  
Cockburn Town

Cayman Islands (U.K.)

Santiago de Cuba  
U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay

Aruba (NETH.)

Netherlands Antilles (NETH.)

Caracas

Watermark: iStock Credit: PeterHermesFurian

Gulf of Mexico

Straits of Florida

Isla de Providencia (COLOMBIA)  
Isla de San Andrés (COLOMBIA)

Panama Canal

Magdalena River

Lake Maracaibo

Orinoco

478414924 km



## **About the Office of Education Standards (OES), Cayman Islands**

The Office of Education Standards (OES) is an established department of the Cayman Islands Government and falls under the remit of the Portfolio of the Civil Service. Our role is defined in the Education Act (2016); (2024 revision). Like many jurisdictions globally, the Cayman Islands monitor the standards of practice in schools and early childhood care and education settings through regular inspections.



PORTFOLIO OF  
THE CIVIL SERVICE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

# OES

IMPROVING THE  
QUALITY OF  
EDUCATION FOR ALL  
STUDENTS IN CAYMAN  
ISLANDS SCHOOLS

THROUGH RIGOROUS  
EVALUATIONS & PROVISION  
OF PROFESSIONAL ADVICE TO  
EDUCATION COUNCIL, MOE  
AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS



# OES Staff

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- Director/ Chief Inspector
- Senior Inspectors
- Inspectors
- Executive Officer
- Contracted International Inspectors



# Inspection Frameworks

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- The OES was reestablished in 2017 and has now completed 3 full cycles of inspections, inspecting and reporting on all Government and Private Early Years centres, Post 16 institutions and Primary and Secondary schools across the 3 islands.
- As the education provision across the Cayman Islands has evolved, it was also important that the Office of Education Standards' inspection frameworks also evolved and adapted accordingly.
- Therefore, the OES has created 3 bespoke, rigorous inspection frameworks tailored around the unique needs of the Education system in the Cayman Islands.

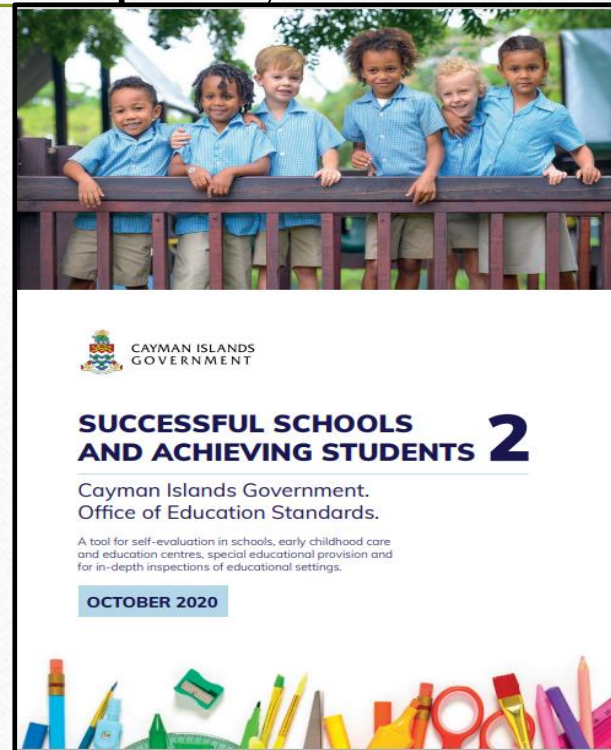


# OES Inspection Frameworks

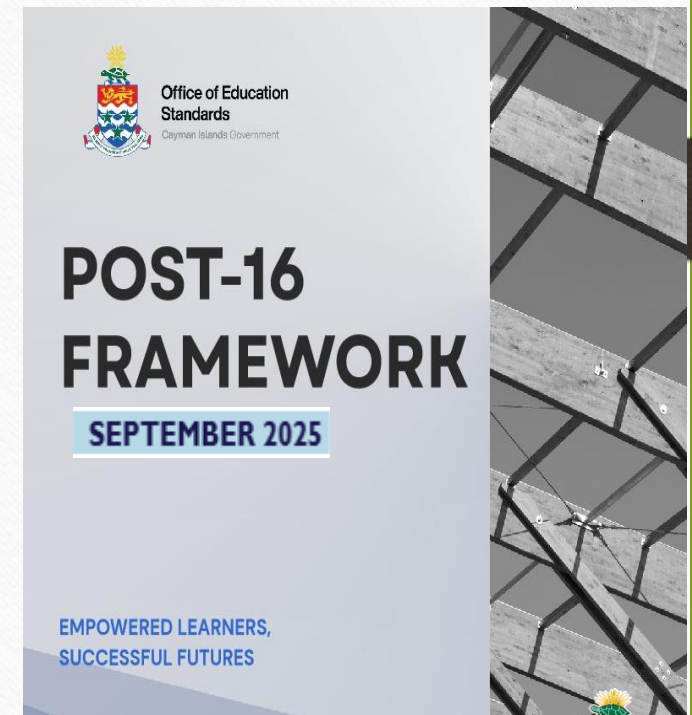
## Early Childhood



## Compulsory Education



## Post 16



# Types of Inspections

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- The OES currently undertakes several different types of inspections: Regular inspections of Early Years, Primary and Secondary Schools and Post 16 institutions, Follow Through inspections, Focused or Thematic inspections, Monitoring Visits and Interim School Audits.



# Types of inspections currently undertaken by the Office of Education Standards



## SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS AND ACHIEVING STUDENTS 2

Cayman Islands Government.  
Office of Education Standards.

A tool for self-evaluation in schools, early childhood care and education centres, special educational provision and for in-depth inspections of educational settings.

OCTOBER 2020



<p><b>Regular inspections to primary and secondary schools, including secondary schools that provide for students up to age 18 years.</b></p>	<p>These cover the quality and effectiveness of the school's provision for, and practice in, the areas included within 'Successful Schools and Achieving Students 2'.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Currently, once every two years but at least once every four years as required by Education Law (2016).</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Dependent upon the size of the school but, on average, four days.</p>
<p><b>Follow-Through Inspections</b></p>	<p>These inspections assess the school's progress in addressing the recommendations from a previous inspection.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Approximately six months after an inspection and continued from then until all identified areas for improvement have been satisfactorily addressed.</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Generally two or three days, depending upon the nature of the recommendations made in the previous report.</p>
<p><b>Inspection of provision for children attending Early Childhood Care and Education Centres</b></p>	<p>These visits follow the same general pattern as primary and secondary schools, but reference the Cayman Islands Early Years Curriculum and Ministry of Education Guidance for Early Years settings.</p> <p>These inspections may also be followed by a 'Follow-Through' Inspection, approximately six months after the initial visit.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Currently, once every two years but at least once every four years as required by Education Law (2016).</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> Usually two to three days, depending upon the age range of children catered for and the number on roll.</p>
<p><b>Focused or thematic inspections</b></p>	<p>This type of inspection may be required in response to Ministerial directives to inform policy and practice across the Cayman Islands. It may focus on a particular aspect of education provision or outcomes and may be carried out across a number of schools. For example, in May and June 2020, the Minister of Education commissioned a review of home learning in the Cayman Islands schools. Other areas of focus can be specific to curriculum subjects or the implementation of certain policies or initiatives.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> As required.</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> One to three days, depending on the area of focus and the number of schools involved.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring Visits</b></p>	<p>In the Office of Education Standards Annual Report 2019, 'Every School a Good School', the introduction of annual monitoring visits was proposed as a strategy to help drive improvement in those schools whose overall performance had been judged to be 'satisfactory' in the last inspection. The Office of Education Standards believes this strategy would facilitate ongoing improvement in the relevant schools. We aim to introduce such visits following agreement from relevant government teams.</p>

Interim School Audit: a risk-based approach to school inspection to evaluate school provision aiming to accelerate progress and raise standards in our schools.



# OES Inspection Process

Inspectors judge performance, ranging from 'Weak' to 'Excellent, by triangulating evidence to ensure accuracy and fairness.

Following the inspection, a detailed report is published outlining strengths, areas for improvement and specific recommendations to support school development and raise standards.

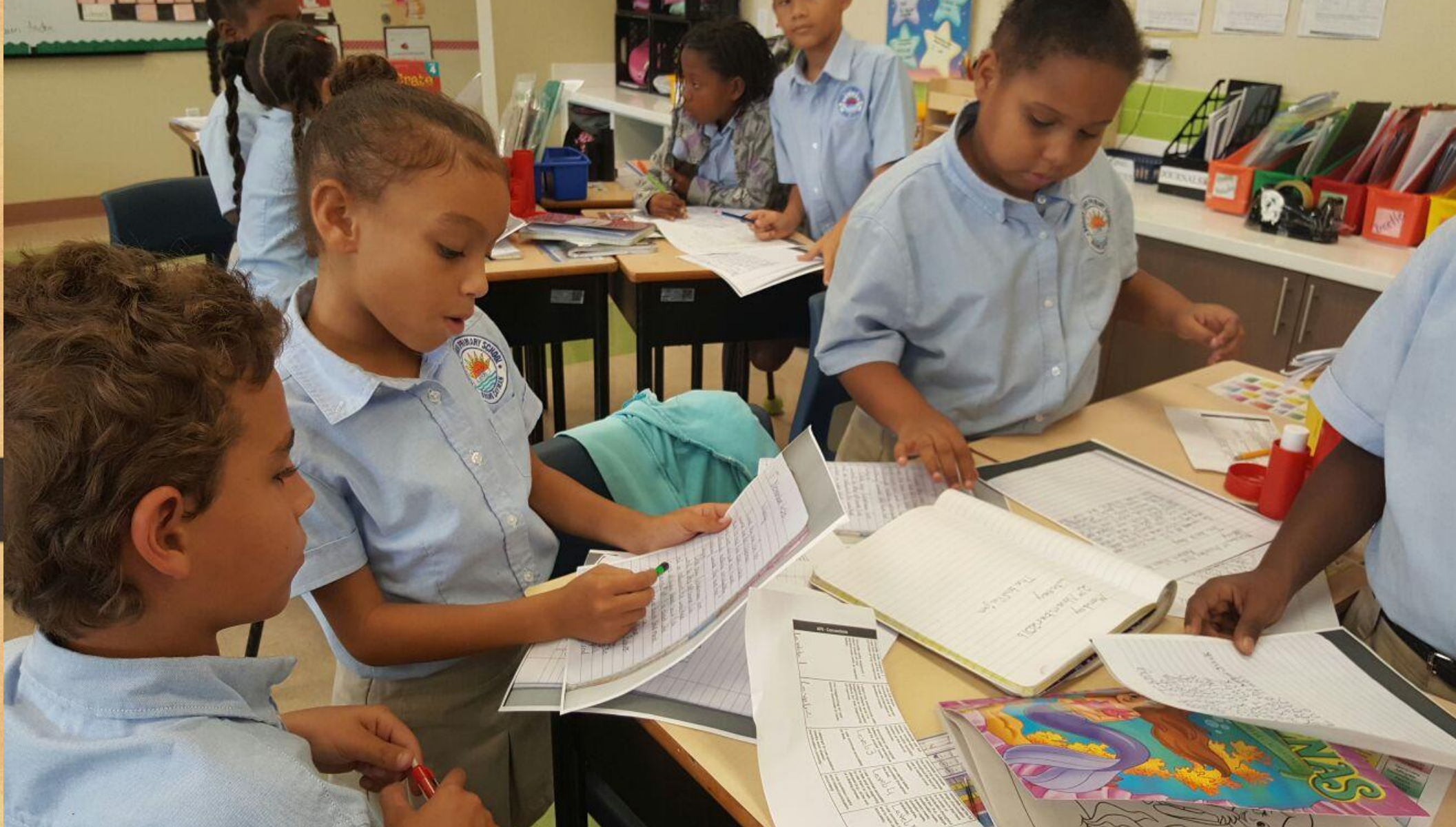
The process promotes accountability, transparency and continuous improvement across the education system. This helps schools to raise standards and to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education.



# Achievements to date

- The Office of Education Standards (OES) has played a pivotal role in raising the quality of education across the Cayman Islands.
- Through its rigorous inspection frameworks, it has helped schools identify strengths and address areas for improvement, leading to more consistent teaching standards and better student outcomes.
- OES has promoted transparency and accountability by publishing detailed inspection reports, which have guided school improvement planning and professional development. ([oes.gov.ky](http://oes.gov.ky))
- The emphasis on data-driven evaluation and stakeholder engagement has strengthened leadership practices and curriculum delivery. As a result, many schools have demonstrated measurable progress in areas such as teaching quality, student achievement, and inclusive education.





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# Motivation to Join SICI

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- In the rapidly evolving landscape of education, the role of school inspectorates is critical in ensuring the quality and effectiveness of educational institutions. One effective way to achieve this is by joining a professional body of inspectorates. The Standing International Conference of Inspectorates (SICI), promotes shared learning and best practices among education inspectorates.



# Benefits of SICI Membership

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- **Enhanced Professional Development:** A primary benefit we hope to realise from SICI membership is access to ongoing professional development opportunities. SICI offers specialized workshops, and conferences that are designed to keep members up-to-date with the latest developments in educational evaluation and inspection practices.



# Benefits of SICI Membership

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- **Access to Latest School Inspection Research and Techniques:** Membership with SICI will provide access to the latest research, methodologies, and tools in school inspection. This will enable us to refine our skills, adopt innovative practices, and apply evidence-based approaches in their work.



# Benefits of SICI Membership

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- **Benchmarking and Self-Assessment:** Membership in SICI will provide the Office of Education Standards with opportunities for benchmarking against other inspectorates. This will allow us to assess our own performance, identify areas for improvement, and implement changes that lead to more effective inspections.



# Benefits of SICI Membership

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- **Improved Quality Assurance:** Joining a professional body like SICI contributes to the standardization and improvement of inspection practices, networking opportunities and the sharing of effective practice.





**Office of Education  
Standards**

Cayman Islands Government

# THANK YOU

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🌐 <http://www.oes.gov.ky>