

Brief Summary of Benefits of BSME Membership

A. General Benefits

1. Membership of a specialist regional organisation
2. Support network of regionally-based Heads and Principals
3. Full-time secretariat based in Bahrain
4. Use of the BSME logo: BSME is a strong (and increasingly so) Middle East brand that is recognised and respected around the region
5. BSME Web-site accessible by parents looking for schools in the Middle East
6. BSME Code of Conduct to promote high standards of operation within schools
7. Annual Conference, (held in the region), featuring top-class speakers, social events and a large educational exhibition. One free conference place is included in the membership fee.

B. Student Events

1. A wide (and growing) range of student activities – both sporting and cultural
2. Full-time BSME Events Coordinator to assist with aspects of organising events for students

C. CPD

1. Dedicated full-time CPD coordinating and planning team, based in Bahrain
2. Over 100 CPD courses (all in the region) in 2013 -14 – and more to come
3. NPQH and other National College courses added – more coming soon
4. CPD especially for Heads / Principals at the Annual Conference
5. Highly regarded accreditor / inspector training offered to Principals and senior staff

D. Recruitment

1. Ability of member schools (having undergone successfully an ISI / BSO inspection) to employ NQTs and to offer them a full induction programme, accepted by DfE
2. Coming soon - purpose-designed, on-line staff recruitment facility for members
3. Cost-effective arrangements, through a Local Authority in England, for safeguarding checks on current and prospective employees
4. Network of members to assist with information about teaching candidates

E. DfE Recognition and Accreditation

1. Access to British Schools Overseas (BSO) status and Department for Education recognition, including DfE website presence. This requires membership together with an inspection by one of the recognised inspection bodies (PENTA, ISI, TRIBAL, Cambridge, CfBT and G2G)
2. Member-designed accreditation system, accepted by the DfE as at least equivalent to BSO standards and which allows a modest cost, top-up route to formal BSO status
3. Opportunities to be part of inspection and accreditation visits to BSME schools (after completion of BSME / PENTA inspector / accreditor training)

F. Presence and influence in the UK and Middle East

1. BSME is extremely active in representing the needs of BSME schools to the UK Government. There are regular, high-level contacts and on-going dialogue between BSME, DfE and other ministries and relevant bodies, including Ministers. The benefits of this active approach are beginning to be apparent.
2. BSME is a UK registered organisation – a not-for-profit company with limited liability
3. There is an increasing level of contact with some Middle East Ministries of Education, to the benefit of schools. The aim is that this should increase.

