

Organisation name	Kings Brighton
Inspection date	30 October 2019
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2022; there are no grounds for bringing this forward. However, evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in W26 have been addressed. The required evidence was subsequently submitted.

Changes to the summary statement

No changes need to be made to the summary statement, apart from adding the date of this inspection and updating the reference to adults 16+.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Kings Brighton in June 2018 and October 2019. The Accreditation Scheme assesses the standards of management, resources and premises, teaching, welfare, and safeguarding under 18s and accredits organisations which meet the overall standard in each area inspected (see www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation for details).

This private language school offers courses in general and academic English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and vacation courses for adults (18+) and young people (16+).

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, staff management, student administration, premises and facilities, course design, learner management, care of students, accommodation, leisure opportunities, and safeguarding under 18s.

The inspection report stated that the organisation met the standards of the Scheme.

Changes to summary inspection findings

None.

New summary inspection findings

None.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	June 2018
Last full inspection	June 2018
Subsequent spot check(s) (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent supplementary check(s) (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent interim visit(s) (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Kings Bournemouth, Kings London, Kings Oxford, Kings Summer
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Kings Colleges in USA: Boston, Los Angeles, New York City, New York State

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak week: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	123	291

Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16
Typical age range	17–24	19–25
Typical length of stay	6–44 weeks	2–4 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, South Korean, Italian, Taiwanese	Saudi Arabian, South Korean, Chinese, Italian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	21	25
Total number of managers including academic	7	7
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	16	18

Premises profile

Address of main site	27–33 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 4SB
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	14a–16a Oxford Place, Brighton BN1 4LD (summer only)
Sites inspected	27–33 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 4SB

Introduction

Background

Kings Brighton is part of the Kings Education group and is owned by Prime Education. The school opened in June 2017 in purpose-built premises in central Brighton. A spot check at this time confirmed that the school could be accredited by extension under the Kings Bournemouth accreditation. The first full inspection took place in June 2018 and the school was accredited, subject to a routine spot check inspection within 18 months.

General English courses of 15 and 21 hours per week are offered at the school. A range of examination and academic options is available for students opting for the intensive programme. Kings Education offers academic courses at the nearby Oxford Place premises. These premises are used for Kings Brighton courses during the summer. The Kings Education provision is not eligible for accreditation under the Scheme.

Preparation

The inspector received copies of relevant documentation, including correspondence between the school and the Accreditation Unit. No notice was given to the school of the proposed date of the visit.

Programme and persons present

One inspector carried out the inspection, arriving at 10.00 and leaving at 14.00. Meetings were held with the principal, the college services manager (who is also the designated safeguarding lead), the assistant head of English, the academic administrator, the assistant accommodation and welfare manager, and the enrichment and activities co-ordinator. The head of English was away on leave; he provided additional documentation on his return to the school the following week. The accommodation and welfare manager was unavailable, but her assistant was able to provide all necessary information. The inspector also held a meeting with a group of students, toured the premises and briefly inspected the residential provision on the second and third floors. The inspector gave a summary of his findings to the college services manager at the end of the inspection.

Findings

Management

The school continues to be effectively managed by an experienced and committed team, well supported by the senior staff at Kings Education head office. Management systems, communication and human resources procedures are all of a high standard. A good range of training opportunities is available to both administrative and academic staff, including weekly training workshops for teachers throughout the year. There is a regular review of procedures through the company quality assurance cycle, although the self-evaluation against Accreditation UK inspection criteria is not currently used. Student administration is well managed; all enrolments are processed in the Bournemouth school. Student absences are particularly well monitored and followed up. The publicity provides a good overview of the school's services and facilities, although information about the level of care of under 18s is not easy to find.

Premises and resources

The school occupies purpose-built premises on four floors. In the basement there is a large cafeteria. On the ground floor there is a reception area, offices, classrooms, and an external seating area. On the first floor there are further offices and classrooms. On the second and third floors there are 58 single ensuite bedrooms.

The premises are distinctively designed and provide a modern and comfortable environment for staff and students. Classrooms are of a reasonable size and are well furnished and equipped. All areas, including external seating areas, are well maintained and are immaculately clean. The cafeteria is spacious and provides a good range of freshly prepared food. Display of information in public areas continues to be of a high standard. The learning resources were not reviewed in detail at this inspection.

Teaching and learning

The academic staff and teachers are appropriately qualified and experienced. Teachers are regularly observed and are well supported. The developmental observation handbook is particularly thorough. Peer observation sessions are regularly organised. Course design is modular, based around a weekly topic and with detailed guidelines on sources of materials for each week. Regular progress tests and tutorials are provided for longer-stay students. Detailed advice and support is available for students wishing to enter mainstream UK education. The teaching was not observed at this inspection.

Welfare and student services

Care of students continues to be of a high standard. The premises are reasonably secure. Students are thoroughly inducted and have ample information about the locality and support available in the school. Students in the focus group confirmed they were well looked after. Homestay recruitment, placement and monitoring procedures continue to work well. The school residential accommodation is of a good standard and is closely monitored. A wide range of leisure activities is offered, with a strong focus on interaction with the local community. Many activities are subsidised by the school and are provided free to students. Risk assessments are generic for each activity type and need to be further developed.

Safeguarding under 18s

Safeguarding issues continue to be well managed by the school. A comprehensive safeguarding policy is in place, supported by specialist training for staff with safeguarding responsibilities and basic training for all staff. Issues relating to parental consent for under 18s are set out in the school's terms and conditions, which parents sign. Booking confirmations for under 18s restate the level of supervision provided and the permissions given by parents. Records of suitability checks for staff and homestays were sampled and found to be up to date in all cases.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

Compliance issues were not inspected in detail at this inspection, apart from the issue of photocopying which was satisfactorily resolved following the last inspection.

Action taken on points to be addressed

Management

M22 The claim 'For over 60 years we have been one of the world's most successful providers of quality English language courses' is not supported with any objectively verifiable evidence. The comparison between Kings language levels and the different grades of external examinations and IELTS scores is inaccurate.

Addressed. The unsubstantiated claim has been removed from the publicity. The inaccurate information comparing Kings language levels with grades of external examinations and IELTS scores has been removed from the publicity.

Conclusions

Kings Brighton continues to be well managed to the benefit of both students and staff. Clear management and administrative procedures are in place and are effectively implemented. Premises and facilities are of a good standard. Academic managers and teachers are appropriately qualified and experienced. Effective academic management procedures are well established. All aspects of welfare and student services continue to be provided to a high standard. Safeguarding procedures for under 18s are well managed.
