

Organisation name	Alpadia Summer Camps (HO London and Switzerland)
Inspection date	27 July 2017

BACKGROUND
Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	August 2016
Last full inspection	August 2016
Subsequent spot check (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent supplementary check (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent interim visit (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Summer camps in London and Keele
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	11 other summer camps outside the UK

Current accreditation status and reason for spot check

Current accredited status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: end accreditation for one year only

Premises profile

Address of main site	Portsmouth Camp: University of Portsmouth, Dennis Sciama Building, Burnaby Road, Portsmouth PO1 3FX
Details of any additional sites in use at the time of the inspection	London Camp: Hackney Community College, Shoreditch Campus, Falkirk Street, London N1 6HQ Keele Camp: University of Keele, University Reception, Chancellors Building, Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG
Details of any additional sites not in use at the time of the inspection	N/a
Sites inspected	Portsmouth Camp

Student and staff profile

	At inspection	In peak week <i>July</i>
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	38	53
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	10	10
Typical age range	10–17	10–17
Typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Italian, French, Swiss	Italian, French, Swiss
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	4	4
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	2 (including senior teacher)	2 (including senior teacher)

INTRODUCTION

Background

Alpadia summer camps were first inspected, as a new applicant, in the summer of 2016. Two of the three camps running in 2016 were visited (in London and in Keele), and meetings were held with local managers and staff, as well as with two representatives of the central management team of the organisation, based in Switzerland. As a result of the inspection, accreditation was awarded for an initial period of one year, with a spot check to be held in the summer of 2017 to see whether the standards found in the initial inspection were being maintained, and whether action had been taken to address a number of issues identified at that time. This report gives the findings of this follow-up spot check, which was conducted over one day by two inspectors. The reporting inspector had been the reporting inspector of the initial 2016 inspection; the co-inspector had not been involved in the 2016 visits.

Preparation

The reporting inspector made contact with the UK summer camps manager in June 2017, and requested up-to-date documentation about the 2017 operation, including an action plan showing changes made to meet the points to be addressed from the 2016 report. This documentation was made available promptly, and it was agreed that one of the three UK centres operating in 2017 would be visited during the summer, but that no notice would be given of which centre would be visited or of the date the visit would take place.

Programme and persons present

The two inspectors arrived at the Portsmouth camp shortly after 08.30. They met the camp manager and drew up a programme for the visit. This involved meetings with the camp manager, the senior activity leader and the senior teacher, as well as with the teachers, the activity leaders and a group of students. Drop-in visits were made to the classes, and one inspector observed the lunchtime arrangements, including the escorting of students from the teaching site to their residence in preparation for the afternoon activities. This inspector also inspected the residence. A substantial review meeting was held with the UK summer camps manager, who happened to be visiting the Portsmouth centre on the day of the visit, focusing on the steps taken to meet the points to be addressed from the 2016 report. This was followed by a brief round-up and the inspectors left just before 16.00.

FINDINGS

All the substantive issues identified in the 2016 report have been addressed. Action taken and issues identified during this inspection are detailed at the end of the report.

The teaching sampled was good in most cases and always satisfactory. Students were engaged in their work and reported that they enjoyed their classes.

A varied programme of activities and excursions was available, and again students reported that they enjoyed them and felt safe. It was noted that risk assessments had been updated since the last inspection, but that staff needed more guidance on what to do if any of the risks materialised. (W28)

The accommodation provided was satisfactory, but arrangements to monitor and supervise children overnight in the residential accommodation need attention. A night supervisor is employed to patrol the building from the time of the evening curfew until the students are woken in the morning. However, no formal arrangements exist to cover the three evenings a week when the night supervisor is not on duty. (C7)

Premises and facilities

Criteria	Not met	Met	Strength	See comments	N/a
R1 Adequate space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
R2 Condition of premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
R3 Classrooms and learning areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
R4 Student relaxation areas and food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
R5 Signage and display	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
R6 Staffroom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments

R1 The premises used are of a high standard. The buildings are modern, with excellent circulation space and

spacious, convenient facilities for learning, relaxation, and eating.

R2 The premises are in an excellent state of repair, and were spotlessly clean throughout.

R3 Classrooms are of a very good size, and have good ventilation and natural light. Equipment is modern, with tables and chairs that are easily reconfigured to provide excellent flexibility of layout.

R4 There is good circulation space in the teaching block, allowing students to move around during break times. Food is taken in the student union building, a short walk from the teaching block. The food was adequate, but the availability of salads was not sufficiently highlighted.

R5 Classrooms had good facilities for display, but little use had been made of them.

Care of under 18s

Criteria	Not met	Met	Strength	See comments	N/a
C1 Safeguarding policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C2 Guidance and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C3 Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C4 Recruitment procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C5 Safety and supervision during scheduled lessons and activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C6 Safety and supervision outside scheduled lessons and activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C7 Accommodation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C8 Contact arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments

All students are under the age of 18.

C1 The safeguarding policy contains all the required information and specifies the necessary procedures in appropriate detail.

C2 All staff receive basic awareness safeguarding training. The safeguarding policy is presented during inductions. All staff receive a copy of the policy and sign to say they have read and understood it. The named member of staff responsible for its effective implementation has received appropriate training.

C4 The organisation requires all staff to receive appropriate police checks and records are on file. Reasonable efforts are made to secure relevant checks on staff who have worked overseas. All staff must give two referees able to vouch for their suitability to work with under 18s, and there was evidence that these had been followed up in all cases.

C6 The arrangements for the supervision of students outside scheduled lessons and activities are appropriate. Students under 14 are supervised at all times during the day. Those over 14 with parental consent are allowed strictly limited free time unsupervised, but must always sign out and must always stay in groups of three.

C7 A night supervisor is employed to patrol the residence after curfew time until the students are woken the following morning. However, although there are resident teachers and activity leaders, at present no specific responsibilities are allocated to cover overnight security and emergencies on the three nights a week when the night supervisor is not on duty.

C8 Arrangements are in place to ensure contact between the provider and parents, legal guardians or their nominated representatives concerning the welfare of students. Care is taken to ensure that this information is available before departure of individual students in case of emergencies.

Care of under 18s summary

The provision meets the section standard. An appropriate safeguarding policy is in place, and all staff have received at least basic awareness safeguarding training. Safer recruitment practices are followed. Arrangements for the supervision of students during lessons, activities and free time are appropriate; however, arrangements to ensure overnight security in the residential accommodation need attention. Arrangements are in place to ensure contact between the provider and parents, legal guardians or their nominated representatives concerning the welfare of students.

POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED

Points from the previous full inspection and/or subsequent spot checks or interim visits with comments (in bold) to indicate how far these have been addressed. Only points reviewed during this spot check are included here. Any points outstanding will be checked at the next full inspection.

Points which must be addressed within 12 months

Management

M2 The management structure needs to be reviewed for the future.

Addressed. A new management structure for the UK summer camps has been introduced, with each camp having a camp manager, and the UK summer camps manager overseeing and supporting their work. In addition, each camp now has a senior teacher, and a senior activities leader.

M6 First degree certificates are not checked, and arrangements for the verification of the originals of teaching certificates are not robust.

Addressed. Evidence was seen that first degree certificates are now checked, and all certificates are scanned and stored electronically in teachers' files.

M20 The complaints procedure is addressed to the staff (how to deal with a complaint) rather to the students or their parents (how to make a complaint).

Partially addressed. A complaints procedure has been produced. It does not include reference to the British Council as the final stage. Further action is needed to ensure that students and parents are aware of the procedure.

M24 Neither the website nor the brochure give information about the maximum class size.

Partially addressed. This information is given on the website, but only in the FAQ section.

Teaching and learning

T14 Students are given no information about the focus of the week's work or the intended learning outcomes.

Addressed. The syllabus documentation has been amended to include learning outcomes for each week. These are displayed in the classrooms for each group.

Welfare and student services

W28 Some of the excursion risk assessments are not specific enough in terms of the venue or the age group of the students.

Addressed. Excursion risk assessments have been re-written to take account of risks specific to the venue and/or the age of the students.

Care of under 18s

C2 There was no evidence that there was any additional guidance or training to ensure effective implementation of the safeguarding policy.

Addressed: All staff receive basic awareness safeguarding training. The safeguarding policy is presented during inductions. All staff receive a copy of the policy and sign to say they have read and understood it.

C4 The organisation does not ask for any references for staff it employs.

Addressed. All staff must give two referees able to vouch for their suitability to work with under 18s.

C6 At the London centre the arrangements for the supervision of students aged 14 and above between and outside scheduled lessons and activities are not appropriate.

Addressed. Appropriate arrangements have now been introduced at all centres, including London.

Other points to be addressed

Management

M7 The induction of teachers at London and Portsmouth had to be carried out by non-TEFLQ senior teachers and, at Keele, all inductions had to be carried out by the camp manager/UK camps manager; there was some feedback that pressure of his other commitments had interfered to some extent with the induction process here.

Addressed: All centres have designated camp managers, who oversee the inductions at their camp and are able to give this their full attention. Senior teachers are given a full briefing and appropriate materials to enable them to induct the teachers at their camp even if they are only TEFLI.

M15 The language in which student rules and disciplinary procedures are expressed is sometimes over complex.

Addressed. A simple presentation of camp rules and disciplinary procedures has been developed, making good use of visuals.

M21 There are some instances of turns of phrase that read like direct translations from French. Some of the language used is more complex than is necessary.

Partially addressed. Some instances of complex language and French expression remain on the website.

M23 The brochure and website contain minimal information about the course content.

Not yet addressed.

Teaching and learning

T21 Students receive a leaving certificate with a grade, but no interpretation of the grade is provided.

Addressed. Certificates now contain explanations of the level and the grade awarded.

Welfare and student services

W1 Risk assessments require further adaptation to meet the needs of young foreign students.

Addressed. Risk assessments have been re-written with the needs of the specific students in mind.

W4 The policy focuses on the measures that will be taken against perpetrators and does not always make clear the procedures students need to follow if they are victims of abuse. Staff require further training in identifying instances of behaviour that may lead to extremist radicalisation.

Addressed: A student version of the safeguarding policy has been produced. This is also shared with staff and gives clear examples of abusive behaviour and how to deal with it. This includes behaviour that may lead to extremist radicalisation.

Points to be addressed arising from this visit

Premises and facilities

R5 Little use had been made of the facilities for classroom display.

Welfare and student services

W28 Staff need more guidance on what to do if any of the risks identified in the risk assessments materialise.

Care of under 18s

C7 Arrangements to ensure overnight security in the residential accommodation need attention.

CONCLUSIONS

An impressive amount of work has been undertaken to bring the provision into line with Scheme requirements. This has been largely successful, and almost all the points to be addressed after the 2016 inspection have now been dealt with. A few, relatively minor, issues from 2016 still need attention, and action is needed to address some new points noted during this inspection.

RECOMMENDATION

The initial period of accreditation can now be extended until the next inspection, which falls due in 2020. However, evidence should be submitted within six months to show that the weaknesses identified under W28 and C7 are being addressed.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Changes to summary statement

The need for improvement in care of under 18s can now be removed.

Summary statement

Original summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Alpadia Language Schools in August 2016. The Accreditation Scheme assesses the standards of management, resources and premises, teaching, welfare, and care of 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 teaching organisation offers residential courses in general English for under 18s.

The inspection report noted a need for improvement in the area of care of under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the area of premises and facilities.

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

Amended summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Alpadia Language Schools in August 2016. The Accreditation Scheme assesses the standards of management, resources and premises, teaching, welfare, and care of 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 teaching organisation offers residential courses in general English for under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the area of premises and facilities.

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