

Organisation name	Bath Academy
Inspection date	10 March 2026
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: monitor effect of change and to inspect additional premises

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. However, evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in P1 have been addressed.

Changes to the summary statement

Courses for young people aged between 12 and 19 can be deleted.
An updated summary statement can now be issued.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Bath Academy in July 2025 and in March 2026. 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 school offers courses in general English for closed groups of under 18s and vacation courses for under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, staff management, student administration, care of students, accommodation, leisure opportunities and safeguarding.

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

Summary inspection findings**Management**

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The management of the provision operates very effectively to the benefit of the students and in accordance with the provider's clearly stated goals and values. Support for staff is proactive and effective. Student administration is efficient and staff management procedures effective. *Strategic and quality management*, *Staff management* and *Student administration* are areas of strength.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. The premises provide students and staff with a comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. However, risk assessments for the additional premises are not up to date. A good range of learning resources is available, appropriate to the age and needs of the students. Guidance on the use of these resources is provided for staff and students where needed.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The academic staff team has a professional profile (qualifications, experience and continuing professional development) appropriate to the context. Teachers receive effective guidance and support to ensure that they support students appropriately in their learning. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The safety and welfare of students are of priority. Student services are well managed, including very well-planned, organised and safely delivered out-of-class activities. Accommodation is suitable, welcoming and very well managed. *Care of students*, *Accommodation*, and *Leisure opportunities* are areas of strength.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The safeguarding policy is supported by efficient reporting tools, and safeguarding training across the team is very good. Supervision of students is very well considered and executed, and the accommodation is very suitable. *Safeguarding under 18s* is an area of strength.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	September 2008
Last full inspection	July 2025
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	GCSE + A Level + University Foundation Programme courses (accredited by ISI)
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	77	80
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	14	12
Typical age range	14–17	12–17
Typical length of stay	One week	Two weeks
Predominant nationalities	Italian	Italian/Spanish
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	6	8
Total number of managers including academic	5	5
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	5	5

Academic manager qualifications profile

Profile at inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of academic managers
TEFLQ qualification and at least three years' full-time relevant teaching experience	2
Academic managers without TEFLQ qualification or three years' relevant experience	N/a
Total	2

Comments

None.

Teacher qualifications profile

Profile in week of inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of teachers
TEFLQ qualification/profile	1
TEFLI qualification	5
ATEFL registered portfolio in progress*	0
Non-ELT-related qualified teacher status only (for short courses for under 18s)*	0
Holding specialist qualifications only (for ESP/CLIL)*	0
Alternative professional profile*	0
Total	6

Comments

None.

Premises profile	
Address of main site	27 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HX
Additional sites in use	1 Chapel Row, Bath BA1 1HN
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	1 Chapel Row

Introduction

Background

This private school, launched in 1997, offers academic courses (GCSEs/A Levels and a university foundation programme) for UK and international students. These courses run from September to July each academic year. In addition, the academy offers general English language courses for closed groups of students under the age of 18 and a summer vacation course, which was inspected in July 2025.

In January 2026, Bath Academy (BA) merged with another previously accredited private school, Best in Bath (BinB). As a result of the merger, BA assumed responsibility for the year-round mini-stay, closed group courses for young learners that had previously been managed by BinB.

BA will continue to operate its established junior summer vacation course while also incorporating the BinB junior summer school programme that runs in July. Following the merger, Bath Academy has taken full responsibility for all English Language Teaching (ELT) provision previously delivered by Best in Bath. The merger includes the transfer of teaching staff, homestay hosts, premises, and associated services.

The former director of BinB now works independently as an agent and supplies students to BA. BinB does not deliver any ELT courses and is no longer an accredited centre.

The primary purpose of this spot check inspection was to evaluate the impact of these organisational changes, particularly the integration of additional premises and operational responsibilities.

Preparation

The spot check was conducted by the same two inspectors who carried out the full inspection of BA in July 2025. Prior to the inspection, any updates or amendments to the Stage 2 documentation were submitted to the inspectors for review.

Programme and persons present

The inspection lasted one full day. Meetings were held with the vice-principal, the director of studies, the head of marketing and communications officer, the welfare and accommodation officer, the student services officer, the activity coordinator, and the premises manager. Focus groups were held with the teachers, the students, and the group leaders. Pop-in observations were conducted of all classes. One inspector conducted a virtual tour of two homestays.

Findings

Management

The organisational structure, policies and procedures remain unchanged. BinB teachers are now employed by BA and have all completed BA induction procedures. A new cloud-based database has recently been introduced, and relevant staff are currently receiving training in its use.

The BinB website, which continues to be managed by the former principal, clearly states that the courses, accurately described, are now delivered by BA.

A major review is planned for the end of April. This will reflect on experiences since January and will inform plans for future development.

Premises and Resources

BA uses the BinB premises for the delivery of mini groups. Findings relating to the premises are reported in the following section.

Teaching and Learning

An updated, relevant and clear Recruitment and Support Policy is in place. The academic management structure and procedures remain unchanged, and all BinB and newly recruited teachers are appropriately qualified and experienced.

Courses for mini groups follow a similar overall structure but are adapted to meet the specific needs or requests of individual groups.

Welfare and Student Services

The student services team liaise closely with the teacher/group leaders who accompany the groups, providing clear guidance regarding their responsibilities.

BinB homestay hosts have been retained by BA and have all been visited by BA accommodation staff. Feedback from previous groups about the accommodation and meals has been positive, and any issues raised are addressed promptly with actions recorded.

Mini groups are provided with tailor-made leisure programmes that include activities and excursions. Risk assessments are in place, and accompanying staff and group leaders are well briefed. Emergency procedures are clearly established.

Safeguarding Under 18s

Safeguarding policies and procedures remain unchanged. Staff and homestay providers who have transferred from BinB to BA have completed the recruitment procedures required by BA, including up-to-date police checks.

For mini groups accompanied by teachers, BA accepts consent signed by the agent on behalf of all their clients. All necessary student information is available in the event of an emergency.

Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Met
P1 Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.	Not met
P2 Premises, including any external areas, are in a good state of repair, cleanliness and decoration, and provide a comfortable environment for students and staff.	Met
P3 Classrooms and other learning areas provide a suitable study environment.	Met
P4 Students have adequate room and suitable facilities for relaxation and the consumption of food.	Met
P5 There is adequate signage to buildings, routes, rooms and exits, and there are facilities for the display or sharing of general information.	Strength
P6 There is sufficient space for all staff, for work, meetings, relaxation and the storage of personal possessions.	Met
Comments	
P1 Although fire checks and procedures were in place, up-to-date risk assessments had not been carried out. P5 Wayfinding signage is very clear, and excellent use is made of visually attractive noticeboards for the display of up-to date general information in appropriate locations.	

Learning resources	Met
P7 There are sufficient learning resources for classroom use for the number of students enrolled, appropriate to their age and the level, length and type of courses offered.	Met
P8 There are appropriate resources for teachers, which are adequate in number, accessible, and well maintained and organised.	Met
P9 Any educational technology inside the classroom and elsewhere is well maintained with adequate technical support. Staff receive appropriate training in using the available technology to support learning.	Met
P10 Students have access to resources for independent learning, relevant to their learning aims and expectations.	Met
P11 There is a policy for the continuing review and development of teaching and learning resources, and evidence of its implementation.	Met

Comments

All the criteria in the above area are fully met.

Conclusions

The BA management structure, policies, and procedures remain unchanged. BinB staff and homestay providers report that working with BA is now entirely satisfactory. Feedback from mini groups enrolled since January has been very positive.

The recent changes have been implemented effectively. Ongoing evaluation will be conducted to assess their impact and to determine whether any further adaptations or developments are required moving forward.

While the premises are satisfactory, the risk assessments require updating. An external fire risk assessment is scheduled for the end of March, along with an updated premises risk assessment.

Items requiring early action

Evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in P1 have been addressed.