

Organisation name	Bell, London
Inspection date	15 April 2019
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: inspect new or additional premises

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2021; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

Changes to the summary statement

An area of strength can be added for premises and facilities.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Bell, London in June 2017 and April 2019. 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 school offers courses in general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+). Strengths were noted in the areas of staff management, quality assurance, premises and facilities, learning resources, academic management, teaching, care of students, and leisure opportunities.

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

Changes to summary inspection findings
Premises and resources

Premises and facilities can be added as an area of strength.

New summary inspection findings
Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The premises provide a very comfortable environment for both students and staff. The school's learning resources and teaching facilities support the studies of the students. Staff benefit from an appropriate professional environment. *Premises and facilities* and *Learning resources* are areas of strength.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	1986
Last full inspection	2017
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	Bell Cambridge, Bell Young Learners (including Bell St Albans)
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Bell Teacher Training, Bell Educational Projects

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak week: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	30	102
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16

Typical age range	22–30	22–30
Typical length of stay	6 weeks	4 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi, Thai, Turkish	Saudi, Korean, Thai, Italian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	8	16
Total number of managers including academic	3	3
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	0	0

Premises profile

Address of main site	Empire Warehouse, Bear Gardens, London SE1 9ED
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	The school premises occupy two levels in a newly constructed building in Bankside, on the south bank of the River Thames in central London. The school is close to public transport links and a range of cultural amenities such as Tate Modern and the Globe Theatre. There is a reception and seating area where the principal and the student services manager have their desks, two offices (one occupied by the learning and teaching manager), a teachers' room with adjoining kitchen, and a teachers' resources area. There is a multipurpose space with adjoining kitchen where students can socialise, relax and eat food they have brought in. Housed in this space are a number of computers for student use and a library of materials that students can borrow. There is Wi-Fi throughout and students have their own photocopying facilities. A bank of lockers is available for students to store their personal possessions. There are twelve classrooms, two of which are set up as one-to-one classrooms or quiet study rooms. Two classrooms are divided by a partition wall which can be opened to make a large room. One classroom also doubles as a 'reflection' or prayer room.

Introduction

Background

The purpose and main focus of this inspection was to inspect the new premises for Bell, London. The move to the current premises took place in April 2018, after the last full inspection in June 2017. Although scheduled, the date of the inspection was not given in advance.

Preparation

Information and publicity materials were sent to the inspector in advance and the website was scrutinised.

Programme and persons present

The inspection was conducted by one inspector over part of a morning. The new premises were inspected. Meetings were held with the principal and the learning and teaching manager, and the inspector spoke to two of the teachers. The student services manager was not in the school on the day of the inspection visit. Her role was being covered by the principal and learning and teaching manager. Points to be addressed from the last full inspection in 2017 were discussed. The visit took place on a Monday morning when the testing and induction of new students could be observed.

Findings

Premises and resources

Findings are reported in the following section.

Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Area of strength
P1 Premises, including any external areas, are in a good state of repair, cleanliness and decoration, and provide a comfortable environment for students and staff.	Strength
P2 Classrooms and other learning areas provide a suitable study environment.	Met
P3 Students have adequate room and suitable facilities for relaxation and the consumption of food.	Strength

P4 Free drinking water is available. A choice of appropriate food at affordable prices is available to students on site, if not available locally.	Strength
P5 There is adequate signage to buildings, routes, rooms and exits, and there are facilities for the display of general information.	Strength
P6 There is sufficient space for all staff, for meetings, relaxation and the storage of personal possessions, and for teachers to carry out their preparation and marking.	Met

Comments

P1 The premises have been fitted out to a high standard for use by the school. They are in an excellent state of repair, cleanliness and decoration.

P2 Classrooms are light, air-conditioned and furnished to a good standard. They are equipped as described in the 2017 report.

P3 The communal space provides students with excellent facilities for relaxation, socialising and the preparation and consumption of food and drink.

P4 The provision is very good. Students are provided with a hot and cold drinks machine and a microwave oven. There is a good choice of food at affordable prices in the immediate locality.

P5 Signage and display boards are attractive and informative. There is a large flat screen in reception displaying daily information.

Action taken on 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.

Management

M18 (formerly M13) Examination of student contact details showed that the school was not in possession of full addresses in London for all the students.

Addressed: new systems have been put in place.

Welfare and student services

W4 Some of the language of the school rules is not easily accessible to students with lower levels of English.

Addressed: the wording has been revised.

Conclusions

The new premises are entirely suitable; they provide good facilities and a comfortable environment for students and staff. Premises and facilities is now an area of strength. Learning resources are as described in the 2017 report and remain an area of strength. There is evidence that some points from the last full inspection in 2017 have been satisfactorily addressed. In the absence of the student services manager, two further points to be addressed could not be easily checked. The required evidence was subsequently submitted.