

Organisation name	Brighton Language College International
Inspection date	26 April 2024 and 27 August 2024
Current accreditation status	Accreditation under review
Reason for spot check	Signalled: end period under review

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The period of review may now be ended, and accreditation continued until the next full inspection which falls due in 2027.

Changes to the summary statement

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

An updated summary statement can now be issued.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Brighton Language College International (BLCI) in October 2023, April and August 2024. 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 English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and vacation courses for under 18s.

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

Updated summary inspection findings

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. The needs of the students for security, pastoral care, information and leisure activities are met. Students benefit from well-managed student services including out-of-class activities and suitable accommodation.

Safeguarding under 18s

Overall, the provision meets the section standard. There is appropriate provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the organisation and in the leisure activities and accommodation provided.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2008
Last full inspection	2023
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	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection		In peak week: July
	April	August	
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	105	161	480

Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	12	14	7
Typical age range	12–50	15–24	15–24
Typical length of stay	2–4 weeks	2–4 weeks	2–4 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Thai, Spanish	Italian, Spanish, German, Swiss	Spanish, Italian, German, Polish
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	12	14	28
Total number of managers including academic	6	5	6
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	0	9	14

Premises profile

Address of main site	7 Old Steine, Brighton BN1 1EJ
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	12 Old Steine, Brighton BN1 1EJ – July and August
Sites inspected	Main site

Introduction

Background

Following the compliance-only inspection in 2023 accreditation was placed under review because the section standard for safeguarding under 18s was not met. The period of review was to be ended by a spot check to demonstrate that weaknesses in this area have been addressed. An action plan was to be submitted to show how the issues raised in the report would be addressed.

After the April 2024 spot check, there were some outstanding points to be addressed. A second spot check was conducted in August 2024 to check these points.

Spot check conducted April 2024

Preparation

The two spot check inspectors were sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit and looked at the school's website. The inspectors contacted the school directly prior to the inspection to check staff availability. The date of the inspection was agreed with the provider.

Programme and persons present

The inspectors arrived at 10.00 and departed at 15.00. Meetings were held with the centre director, the welfare officer/HR administrator, the activities manager, and the accommodation manager. A focus meeting was held with a group of students on the adult programme, and another with a group on the junior programme. A meeting also took place with group leaders responsible for some of the junior students. Meetings were also held with an activity leader and with a group of teachers.

Spot check conducted August 2024

Preparation

A second spot check was conducted by one inspector. She was sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit and she examined the school's website. The inspector contacted the school prior to the inspection to check staff availability. The exact date of the inspection was not disclosed.

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at 10.45 and departed at 14.15. Meetings were held with the centre director, the welfare and HR officer, the activities and events manager, the academic administrator, and the accommodation coordinator. Meetings were held with representative groups of teachers and group leaders.

Findings

Findings are reported in the following section and the Action taken on points to be addressed.

Welfare and student services

Care of students (2023 criteria)	Met
W1 Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.	Met
W2 There is a comprehensive plan to respond to any emergency. This plan is known to all staff, and relevant elements are known to students.	Met
W3 Students receive pastoral care appropriate to their age, background and circumstances. All staff and students know the name(s) of the person or people who deal with students' personal problems.	Met
W4 There are policies to promote tolerance and respect, and procedures for dealing with any abusive behaviour. All staff and students are aware of these.	Met
W5 Where relevant, students receive a 24-hour emergency contact number for the provider, in writing.	Met
W6 Students receive in advance information on the most appropriate forms of transport between the point of entry to the UK and the provider or accommodation, including approximate costs.	Met
W7 Students receive advice on relevant aspects of life in the UK.	Met
W8 Students have access to adequate health care provision.	Met
Comments	
W2 Information is available to students, their parents and group leaders, on the website and in student and group leader guidelines. The advice is reinforced during inductions for staff, students and group leaders and via posters in the school. Staff are required to sign to confirm that the information has been read.	

Safeguarding under 18s

Safeguarding under 18s	Met
S1 There is a safeguarding policy which specifies procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of all students under the age of 18. A named member of staff is responsible for implementing this policy and responding to child protection allegations.	Met
S2 The provider makes the policy known to all adults in contact with under 18s through their role with the organisation, and provides guidance or training relevant to its effective implementation.	Met
S3 The provider has written parental/guardian consent reflecting the level of care and support given to students under 18, including medical consent.	Met
S4 Recruitment procedures for all roles involving responsibility for or substantial access to under 18s are in line with safer recruitment good practice and the organisation's safeguarding policy.	Met
S5 There are suitable arrangements for the supervision and safety of students during scheduled lessons and activities.	Met
S6 There are suitable arrangements for the supervision and safety of students outside the scheduled programme.	Met
S7 There are suitable arrangements for the accommodation of students.	Met
S8 There are suitable arrangements to ensure contact between the provider and parents, legal guardians or their nominated representatives concerning the welfare of students.	Met
Comments	
<p>S2 Relevant adults are aware of the safeguarding policy and have received appropriate levels of training.</p> <p>S3 This criterion is now fully met. The parental consent form has all the necessary information. It is made available to parents before enrolment. Most forms are received digitally before arrival. Any paper copies brought by group leaders are scanned so that the information can be accessed by appropriate staff.</p> <p>S4 Staff files were sampled and a recently appointed member of staff was asked about the recruitment process. The member of staff responsible for HR has been in post six months. He has made sure that appropriate documentation is in place and checks have been conducted for all staff recruited since the April spot check. He has also instigated systems to ensure all security checks are up to date.</p> <p>S6 A suitable risk assessment has been drawn up for students travelling to and from homestay accommodation; this informs advice given to students.</p>	

Action taken on points to be addressed

Points from the previous full inspection and/or subsequent spot checks with comments (in bold) to indicate how far these have been addressed.

Management

M4 There are insufficient meetings of the teaching team, particularly in the busy summer period.

Addressed. This criterion is now met. There are weekly teachers' meetings.

M10 There were not two references on file for all staff.

Addressed. Sampled files of recently recruited staff had two references.

M21 The complaints procedure is unclear and parts of it are written in inaccessible English.

Addressed. The complaints procedure has been rewritten in clear and accessible English.

Premises and resources

P9 Teachers reported that they had received inadequate training in how to use digital resources.

Addressed. Teachers reported that the training received had been satisfactory.

Welfare and student services

W1 (2023: W2) Relevant aspects of the emergency procedure plan are not shared with students.

Addressed. See above.

W12 Cost of travel to accommodation and room type are not included in confirmations.

Addressed. The letter template was amended during the inspection and is no longer a point to be addressed.

W13 Action taken on feedback related to accommodation is not always recorded.

Addressed. There was evidence that feedback is added to individual host records.

Safeguarding under 18s

S2 The safeguarding policy is not known by all relevant adults and not all staff have received appropriate levels of training.

Addressed. See above.

S3 Parental/guardian consent is not gathered for all students.

Addressed. See above.

S4 Appropriate references were not in place for hosts and staff. The school did not request evidence of criminal record checks for leaders accompanying groups at the time of the inspection.

Addressed. See above.

S6 Information given to students lacks detail on what they may do outside the scheduled programme.

Addressed. See above.

Conclusions

The spot check conducted in August 2024 found that the school has addressed the serious weaknesses identified in the April 2024 spot check. In addition, some of the points from the 2023 compliance inspection were checked and found to have been addressed.