

Organisation name	British Summer School
Inspection date	2 August 2024
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

## Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2027; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

## Changes to the summary statement

An area of strength can be added for *Care of students*, and the date of this inspection.

## New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited British Summer School in July 2023 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](http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation) for details).

This private language teaching organisation offers residential vacation courses in general English for adults (18+) and under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, student administration, premises and facilities, academic management, learner management, and care of students.

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

## Updated summary inspection findings

### Management

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. Strategic and quality management systems are very strong, with very clear goals and values and very effective communication and feedback procedures. Staff management policies are appropriate, and appraisal procedures are robust. Student administration is very well managed, with excellent levels of customer service, and very good support for parents and guardians. Publicity is well presented and leads to realistic expectations. *Strategic and quality management* and *Student administration* are areas of strength.

### Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The school premises visited provide impressive buildings set in very well-maintained grounds. Classrooms are light and spacious and learning resources are well chosen. The policy for reviewing resources is very suitable. *Premises and facilities* is an area of strength.

### Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The academic staff profile is appropriate. Academic management systems are very effective, and teachers felt very well supported. Procedures for the review of course design are very effective, and learner management systems are very well managed. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme. *Academic management* and *Learner management* are areas of strength.

### Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The centres provide their students with very good pastoral care. The school offers comfortable, clean accommodation, which is well managed. The leisure programme is designed to meet the needs of the students. *Care of students* is an area of strength.

## Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. There is appropriate provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the school, and in the leisure activities and accommodation provided. The safeguarding policy is clear and is well implemented.

### Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	July 2023
Last full inspection	July 2023
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	August 2024
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	British Summer School is owned by the same company as Exsportise Summer Schools.
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)	176	341 (July)
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	6	6
Typical age range	10–16	10–16
Typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Chinese, French, Italian, Spanish	Chinese, French, Italian, Spanish
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	13	30
Total number of managers including academic	19	21
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	21	45

### Premises profile

Address of main site	Head Office Foundry, 78 The Beacon, Eastbourne BN21 3NW
Additional sites in use	Worth School, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, Crawley RH10 4SD Brambletye School, Lewes Road, East Grinstead RH19 3PD Oundle School, Church Street, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4EE Moulton College, West Street, Moulton NN3 7RR
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Worth School, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, Crawley RH10 4SD

### Introduction

#### Background

This was a routine spot check for a newly accredited organisation with a focus on points to be addressed from the previous inspection.

#### Preparation

Prior to the visit, the inspector contacted the head office of British Summer School (BSS) to confirm which centres would be in operation throughout August. An updated action plan on points to be addressed was also requested. The location and date of the visit was not disclosed.

#### Programme and persons present

The inspection was carried out by one inspector and lasted for half a day. The inspector arrived at 11.00 and left at 14.00. A remote meeting was held with the head office the following week, lasting for one hour. During the onsite inspection, meetings were held with the centre manager, the senior academic manager for BSS, and the director of studies. Separate focus group meetings were held with the teachers and the senior activity assistant, and a group of students. Documents viewed included the Focus Adventure syllabus and resources, collated student feedback, a staff feedback report, recruitment and support policy, and premises risk assessments. At head office, meetings were held with the operations manager, and staff files were sampled. A brief round-up was given to the head office team.

## Findings

### Management

There have been no significant changes in staffing at head office since the last inspection. Findings in other aspects of this area are reported in the Action taken on points to be addressed.

### Premises and resources

There have been no significant changes in premises since the last inspection. Findings in relation to resources are reported in the Action taken on points to be addressed.

### Teaching and learning

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

### Welfare and student services

Findings are reported in the Action taken on points to be addressed. An area of strength can be added for *Care of students* now that risk assessments have been improved and criterion W1 is met.

### Safeguarding under 18s

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

## Action taken on points to be addressed

### Management

M10 A very small number of second references were missing from staff files.

**Addressed. Staff files sampled contained at least two references each.**

M24 The description for the 'Adventurers of the Future' as well as the 'Learning and Innovation' courses did not match what was seen in the centres visited.

**Addressed. The course descriptions on the website are now accurate.**

M28 Publicity claims that all academic staff are suitably qualified according to Scheme requirements, but this was not true of all staff in the centres visited.

**Addressed. The description of staff qualifications is now accurate.**

### Premises and resources

P8 Resources for the delivery of the 'Adventurers of the Future' programme were insufficient.

**Addressed. Resources for the delivery of the programme have been greatly improved and teachers in the focus group were very happy with them.**

### Teaching and learning

T3 The demands of the 'Adventurers of the Future' course were considerably beyond the expertise of the teachers asked to deliver it.

**Addressed. There have been considerable improvements in the syllabus and resources for this course. As well as this, there has been useful input and support from the senior activity leader who has considerable experience in this area. All of the above has enabled teachers to confidently deliver the course.**

### Welfare and student services

W1 The provider has not undertaken its own risk assessments for the Brambletye site.

**Addressed. Premises risk assessments for the Brambletye site were submitted following the previous inspection. In addition, risks assessments were viewed during the spot check visit to the Worth site.**

### Safeguarding under 18s

S1 The safeguarding policy does not include the names and contact details of the head office and local designated safeguarding leads.

**Addressed. An updated policy with contact details added was submitted shortly after the previous inspection.**

S4 Some of the staff files sampled did not include two appropriate references.

**Addressed. Staff files sampled during meetings with head office included two appropriate references.**

## Conclusions

BSS has systematically addressed all points to be addressed from the previous inspection.