

Organisation name	Churchill House School of English, Ramsgate
Inspection date	4 July 2019
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: follow up on Points to be addressed

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2022; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

Changes to the summary statement

The need for improvement in the area of safeguarding under 18s can now be removed. The date for this inspection should be added.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Churchill House School of English Language in September 2018 and July 2019. 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+), for closed groups of under 18s and vacation courses for adults (18+) and under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, student administration, learning resources, academic staff profile, academic management, course design, learner management, leisure opportunities, and accommodation.

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

New summary inspection findings
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 organisation, in any leisure activities and in the homestay accommodation.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	1980
Last full inspection	2018
Subsequent spot check(s) (if applicable)	2019 (this inspection)
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	Churchill House Summer Centres
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak week: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	64	165
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16
Typical age range	16–70	16–70
Typical length of stay	4–6 weeks	4–6 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Turkish, Italian	Mexican
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	10	16

Total number of managers including academic	7	7
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	16	16

Premises profile

Address of main site	Spencer Square, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9EQ
Additional sites in use	The Paragon building (The Paragon, Ramsgate CT11 9JX). The Executive Centre (Paragon Street, Ramsgate CT11 9JX).
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Spencer Square building; The Paragon building

Introduction

Background

Following the full inspection in September 2018, the school was required to provide evidence within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in safeguarding under 18s had been addressed. The school was informed that a spot check would take place within six months looking at all points to be addressed.

Churchill House School of English Language offers open-enrolment courses with 15, 20 or 25 hours per week, with enrolment every Monday. Students aged 16 or 17 may enrol on adult courses. For the 20 and 25 lesson variants, afternoon electives are offered in a variety of 'special interest' areas subject to demand. Students following the 25-hour programme are guaranteed the availability of an IELTS option. Preparation courses for a number of external examinations are offered on specific start dates. One-to-one programmes are offered either as a full programme or a supplement to a group-based course. Closed-group courses have a specially designed programme to meet their particular needs and interests; students on junior group courses may range from 10 to 17, and courses may also be run for closed groups of students (16+).

The school occupies three buildings: Spencer Square is the administrative and headquarters base, the Paragon building is the main teaching and social base, and the 'Executive centre' is currently used mainly as a teaching base for closed groups. The three buildings are close to one another.

Preparation

The spot check inspector was sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit and looked at the school's website but did not contact the school directly in advance. The Accreditation Unit did not indicate to the school when the spot check would take place.

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at Spencer Square at 09.30 and left at 13.30. She had meetings with the director of studies, the accommodation manager, the social club manager and the summer centre director (responsible for publicity). She visited the Paragon building to check road safety arrangements. She asked to see various documents, which were provided in paper form or electronically. She did not observe any teaching.

Findings

Management

There have been no significant changes in staffing since the last inspection.

M22 The website contained a reference to areas of strength with a link to the school's 2014 report. This was corrected immediately after the inspection and was replaced with an accurate statement and a link to the school's 2018 report. This is no longer a point to be addressed.

Premises and resources

There have been no significant changes in resources since the last inspection.

Teaching and learning

There have been no significant changes in teaching and learning since the last inspection.

Welfare and student services

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

Safeguarding under 18s

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

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.

Points which must be addressed within three months

Safeguarding under 18s

S1 The safeguarding policy does not include all the information required by this criterion. There is no appropriately trained member of the safeguarding staff to cover for the DSL and the safer recruitment policy does not include guidance on handling delayed suitability checks.

Addressed. The social club manager has been appointed deputy DSL and has received specialist safeguarding training. The director of studies, the assistant accommodation manager and a teacher have received specialist safeguarding training. The safer recruitment policy includes sufficient guidance on handling delayed suitability checks.

S4 In some homestays not all adults in the home have current suitability checks.

Addressed. Current suitability checks are on file for all adults in homestays. The accommodation manager has included additional guidance in the requirements set out in the homestay booking conditions sent to all hosts.

S6 On occasions, particularly at the end of lessons, there are insufficient staff to supervise students crossing the road.

Addressed. Two activity leaders are on duty on both sides of the road outside the Paragon building outside class times. They are instructed to direct students to a one-way street with a safe crossing a short distance from the Paragon building. The social club manager has strengthened the specific risk assessment for the roads outside the Paragon building and monitors the supervision arrangements. Appropriate road safety notices have been drawn up and are prominently displayed at the exit to the Paragon building. All students and group leaders receive a map of the school's buildings on arrival, with road safety advice highlighted.

Other points to be addressed

Management

M9 Job descriptions are not dated or routinely reviewed.

Addressed. All job descriptions were dated and had been reviewed.

M22 The use of the word 'campus' on the website to describe the three buildings used in Ramsgate is rather exaggerated.

Addressed. The word 'campus' has been removed.

M29 The brochure uses an outdated version of the Accreditation Scheme marque.

Addressed. Claims to accreditation are in line with Scheme requirements.

Welfare and student services

W26 A number of the risk assessments are provided by the venue visited and are not adapted to take account of the specific needs of overseas students.

Addressed. A number of the risk assessments provided by the venue visited have been satisfactorily adapted to take account of the specific needs of overseas students. The social club manager has been enrolled on an English UK course for writing risk assessments.

Conclusions

The main purpose of the inspection was to focus on weaknesses in Safeguarding under 18s: S1, S4 and S6 and they are now fully met. There is evidence that other points to be addressed are fully met. One new point to be addressed arising from this visit was addressed immediately after the inspection.