Spot check report

Organisation name	CLAN Language Schools, Edinburgh.
Inspection date	8 July 2026
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution Signalled: inspect new or additional premises

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2029; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

Changes to the summary statement

No changes need to be made to the summary statement, apart from adding the date of this inspection.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited CLAN Language Schools Edinburgh in July 2025 and July 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 language school offers courses in general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and vacation courses for under 18s. CLAN also offers mini-stays for ages 8+ throughout the year.

Strengths were noted in the areas of student administration, premises and facilities and academic management.

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 clearly to the benefit of the students, and very evidently in accordance with the provider's stated goals, values, and publicity. Management and administration systems are efficient and effective. S*tudent administration* is an area of strength.

Premises and resources
The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The premises provide students and staff with a very safe, comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. A 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. *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 manager has a professional profile (qualifications, experience and continuing professional development) appropriate to the context. Teachers receive good guidance to ensure that they support students effectively in their learning. Programmes of learning are well managed to the benefit of the students, and the teaching observed met the requirements of the scheme. *Academic management* is an area of strength.

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, although risk assessments for the leisure programme are overly generic. Students benefit from well-managed student services, including, out-of-class activities and suitable accommodation.

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 and in any leisure activities. There are good arrangements in place to ensure the safety of students in residential accommodation.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance
The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	May 2024
Last full inspection	July 2025
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	July 2026
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	None
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	None

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: September
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	15	100
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	8	8
Typical age range	12–60	12–60
Typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Italian, Brazilian, Saudi Arabian	Italian, Chilean
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	3	3
Total number of managers including academic	4	4
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	0	0

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	1
Academic managers without TEFLQ qualification or three years' relevant experience	0
Total	1
Comments	
The academic manager was teaching 21 hours in the week of the inspection.	

Teacher qualifications profile

Profile in week of inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of teachers
TEFLQ qualification/profile	1
TEFLI qualification	1
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	2
Comments	
None	

Premises profile	
Address of main site	10a Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2AS
Additional sites in use	Edinburgh College, Milton Road Campus, 24 Milton Road East, Edinburgh EH15 2PQ.
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Both

Introduction

Background

CLAN Language Schools was formed in November 2023. At the time of the full inspection in July 2025 the CEO was looking for permanent premises in Edinburgh to establish year-round provision. The school acquired permanent premises in August 2025 and has been offering classes there since September 2025. CLAN offers general English classes and exam preparation courses year-round. Courses can also be tailor made to suit the needs of clients. Seasonal summer course for young learners (8–17) are offered on Edinburgh College premises. Since the last inspection there have been some staffing changes: a new academic operations manager and operations manager have been appointed.
This was a signalled spot inspection to inspect new premises and a routine inspection of a newly accredited provider.

Preparation

The spot check was carried out by one inspector visiting two sites over one day. The inspector contacted the provider in advance to check if there were any dates which would not be suitable and when key staff would be present. The provider and the Accreditation Unit sent the inspector relevant documents

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at Edinburgh College at 9.30 and spent the morning there. They then travelled to Rutland Square to inspect the new premises and left at 16.00. Meetings were held with the CEO, the head of commercial performance (remotely), the academic operations manager, the operations manager/centre manager and a group leader. A focus group meeting was held with one teacher teaching on the summer programme and a group of students at Edinburgh College. Residential accommodation at Edinburgh College was inspected; a tour of the new premises and the immediate local area was also carried out. Upon arrival, the inspector requested a range of documents including staff files, which were provided.

Findings

Premises and resources

The new premises provide a very comfortable and professional environment for both staff and students. Care has been taken to ensure that the design of teaching, relaxation and office spaces are entirely appropriate to the needs of the users. The safety and security of staff and students is also well managed. Additional work is being carried out that will further enhance the facilities for staff and students.

Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Area of strength
P1 Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.	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.	Strength
P3 Classrooms and other learning areas provide a suitable study environment.	Strength
P4 Students have adequate room and suitable facilities for relaxation and the consumption of food.	Strength
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

P2 The new premises are of a high standard: clean, attractively decorated and well looked after.
P3 Classrooms and other learning areas are also of a very good standard. Classrooms are of different sizes allowing for small and larger group teaching, well-furnished and decorated providing a very suitable learning environment for students.
P4 Students have room to relax and socialise in with access to games and a large TV screen.
P5 Signage is very clear; CLAN branded information displays and banners create a real sense of CLAN identity.

Action taken on points to be addressed

W22 Risk assessments for excursions are overly generic and lack advice on how to respond to situations where students are at risk.
Addressed. Risk assessments have now been drawn up for each specific outing/location and contain details of how to respond to situations where students are at risk.
S7 Inspectors found that in the weeks leading up to the inspection the school had been sharing a floor of the residential accommodation block with another provider and suitable arrangements to ensure the separation of students under the age of 18 from unknown adults connected to the other organisation had not been made.
Addressed. Suitable arrangements are now in place to ensure that students under the age of 18 cannot come into contact with unknown adults from other organisations in the residential accommodation.

Conclusions

The new permanent premises are of a good standard and entirely suitable for the needs of staff and students for study and relaxation. The recently appointed academic operations manager and operations manager are very well qualified and experienced.

Items requiring early action

None.