

Organisation name	English Path, London
Inspection date	31 January 2023
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: check provision not seen at inspection

### Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2025; 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 English Path London in July and November/December 2021 and January 2023. 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 school offers courses in general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+), and vacation courses for under 18s.

A strength was noted in the area of *Premises and facilities*.

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

### Updated summary inspection findings

#### Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The premises provide students and staff with a very comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. Classrooms are spacious and well appointed, and educational technology is well maintained. 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.

#### Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that under 18s are kept safe and secure. The training profile of the staff is good and supervision on site is thoughtfully managed.

### Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	July 2021
Last full inspection	July 2021
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	English Path Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Global Banking School, a sister company of English Path which provides higher education courses and operates within the same campuses.

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak week: July
---------------------------	---------------	--------------------

Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	75	150
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	13	13
Typical age range	22–35	20–30
Typical length of stay	12 weeks	6 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Brazilian, Turkish, Japanese, Peruvian, Colombian, French,	Brazilian, Turkish, Japanese, Peruvian, Colombian, French, Italian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	6	10
Total number of managers including academic	3	3
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	8	8

### Premises profile

Address of main site	English Path London; 891 Greenford Road, London UB6 0HE
Additional sites in use	English Path London Canary Wharf; Import Building, 2 Clove Crescent, East India, London E14 2BE
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	English Path London Greenford and English Path London Canary Wharf

### Introduction

#### Background

English Path (EP) is a subsidiary company of Global Education Group, which also includes Global Banking Schools (GBS). GBS offer further and higher education courses across seven campuses in London, Leeds, Birmingham, and Manchester. GBS opened ten years ago and offers courses to domestic students as part of the government's programme of widening participation in higher education.

EP London was granted provisional accreditation in July 2021 and full accreditation following a supplementary inspection in November 2021 when the centre was fully operational. Although EP was offering courses to under 18s, none had yet been enrolled so this aspect of the provision could only be partially assessed. EP London has one campus in Greenford and another in Canary Wharf. During the supplementary inspection, only the Greenford site was visited in person. Since the previous inspection, the EP team at Greenford have moved to a different part of the same building. EP was informed that a spot check would take place in early 2023 to focus particularly on the provision for under 18s as well as visiting both sites in person.

#### Preparation

The spot check inspector was sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit and looked at the school's website. The inspector contacted the centre in mid-December 2022 and asked them to confirm enrolment dates for under 18s in early 2023. The managing director (MD) was informed that the spot check would take place in January/February 2023 but that the exact date of the visit would not be communicated. The inspector also asked for a number of documents including an updated self-evaluation of Safeguarding under 18s, and a people to be seen form. The school also provided an indication of courses likely to be taking place at the time of the inspection as well as any planned staff absences.

#### Programme and persons present

In the week of the inspection, EP was running General English courses for adults and young people (16+) as well as closed groups for under 18s at the Greenford site. At Canary Wharf, General English courses for students aged 30+ were running. The inspector arrived at the Greenford site at 9.00 and left at 14.00 to travel to the Canary Wharf site. He arrived there at 15.30 and left at 17.00. At the Greenford site, meetings were held with the MD, head of academics, head of young learners, and the HR officer. Focus group meetings were held with both students and teachers. At the Canary Wharf site, a meeting was held with the head of UK operations.

### Findings

#### Premises and resources

Findings are reported in the following section.

#### Safeguarding under 18s

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.	Strength
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.	Met
P5 There is adequate signage to buildings, routes, rooms and exits, and there are facilities for the display of general information.	Met
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 of both EP London and EP Canary Wharf are very well presented and only recently completely refurbished and redecorated. The GBS facilities team ensures everything is kept in a good state of repair.  
P2 All classrooms are spacious, quiet and bright with heating and air-conditioning which can be controlled from within the individual rooms.  
P3 Both sites offer large break-out areas for students, cafes offering a good variety of food, as well as outside seating for use in good weather.

Learning resources	Area of strength
P7 There are sufficient learning resources for the number of students enrolled, appropriate to their age and the level, length and type of courses offered.	Met
P8 There are appropriate resources for teachers, which are adequate in number, accessible, and well maintained and organised.	Met
P9 Any educational technology inside the classroom and elsewhere is well maintained with adequate technical support. Staff receive appropriate training in using the available technology to support learning.	Strength
P10 Any facilities provided for additional or independent learning are appropriately equipped and organised.	Met
P11 Students receive guidance on the use of any resources provided for independent learning.	Met
P12 There is a policy for the continuing review and development of teaching and learning resources, and evidence of its implementation.	Met

### Comments

P9 Educational technology is well provided for in the classrooms and teachers confirmed that it is well maintained, and they are well supported in using it. There is also a library in each building with computer suites for student use.

## Safeguarding under 18s

Safeguarding under 18s	Area of strength
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.	Strength
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.	Strength
S6 There are suitable arrangements for the supervision and safety of students outside the scheduled programme.	Not 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

S2 In addition to the named persons/DSL, other supervisory or management staff are trained to advanced or specialist level. As well as all staff having basic safeguarding training prior to their start dates, they are provided with regular internal refresher training, particularly before the arrival of junior groups.

S5 Arrangements for the supervision of under 18s during lessons and activities are very good. Young learner groups are taught on a separate floor from adult groups, with separate toilets and breaks being staggered between the two age groups. Junior group students are also identified by a distinct lanyard.

S6 Although a parental consent form is completed before arrival, there was no reference on this to overnight stays. A separate consent form for overnight stays is used once the student is on-site, but this made no reference to EP reserving the right to refuse permission in the interests of the child's safety. Both issues were amended during the inspection and are no longer 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.*

There were no outstanding points to be addressed from the supplementary inspection.

### Conclusions

EP London has created a dynamic and comfortable learning environment for an ever-growing number of students and staff. All students and teachers spoken to were very pleased with both the premises and courses as well as speaking highly of the organised and helpful management team. There is a well-trained and dedicated safeguarding team in place and all under 18s are well looked after.