

Organisation name	International Language College, Newcastle
Inspection date	19 November 2024
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: monitor effect of change

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

No changes need to be made to the summary statement, apart from adding the date of this inspection and updating the minimum age to 16+.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited International Language College (ILC) Newcastle in September 2022, September 2023 and November 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+).

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, student administration and academic management.

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

Updated summary inspection findings
Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. Safeguarding policies and procedures are sound. There are suitable arrangements for the safeguarding of students aged under 18 within the school, during out-of-class activities and in their accommodation.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

D1 Sampling identified the following issue: the school uses photocopied workbook materials; the school should seek further advice from the relevant regulatory body or obtain independent legal advice.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2022
Last full inspection	2022
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	September 2023
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	ESBM Leicester
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: November
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	24	24
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16
Typical age range	17–80	17–80
Typical length of stay	12 weeks	12 weeks

Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti	Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	1	1
Total number of managers including academic	3	3
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1	1

Premises profile

Address of main site	23 Portland Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle NE2 1QS
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Main site

Introduction

Background

ILC Newcastle (ILC) was first inspected in 2022 followed by a routine spot check in September 2023 for newly accredited organisations within the first 18 months of accreditation. This spot check was prompted by changes in ownership and academic management and the school's decision to start accepting students aged 16+ on their adult courses. One of the previous co-owners of the school now has sole ownership of ILC (from November 2024). The owner also owns East Midlands School of Business and Management (ESBM) Leicester and the new principal of ILC is also principal of ESBM, spending approximately two and a half days per week at each school. A new DoS was appointed in March 2024 after the departure of the previous DoS. The DoS has day-to-day management responsibility for ILC and is in close daily contact with the director. She is supported by an ADoS.

Preparation

The spot check inspector was also the reporting inspector for the first full inspection of the school in 2022. She was sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit. The inspector contacted the school in mid-October 2024 and informed the principal that the spot check would take place in November 2024 but that the exact date of the visit would not be communicated. The inspector also asked for several documents in advance, including a *People to be seen* form, an organogram and details of academic qualifications for the new DoS and ADoS. 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 spot check, there were three teachers working on General English courses, including the DoS and the ADoS. One student aged 17 was enrolled in the school. The inspector arrived at the school at 09.20 and left at 15.00. Meetings were held with the principal by video call, the DoS and the administrator. There was a focus group meeting with one teacher and another with some students. The inspector asked to see a number of documents, which were provided in paper form or electronically. Three classes were observed briefly.

Findings

Management

Clear plans are in place to increase student numbers incrementally and to use the relationships the sister school, ESBM, has with agents and representatives abroad. Plans include the two schools working together closely and sharing recruitment to develop pre-sessional programmes with partner universities. Plans are documented and realistic.

Teaching and learning

Course design is now coursebook based with teachers following the coursebook at different levels but also free to adapt and bring in their own materials. Students are given a coursebook as part of their fee. Students are tested every week and progress is closely monitored. Both the DoS and the ADoS are TEFLQ and experienced in a variety of contexts. Three classes were observed briefly and all were of good standard; students were clearly engaged and enjoying their lessons, very good boardwork was seen in one lesson, parts of speech were indicated and all teachers used phonetic transcription when writing up new vocabulary.

Safeguarding under 18s

Findings are reported in the following section.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

D1 Sampling identified the following issue: the school uses photocopied workbook materials; the school should seek further advice from the relevant regulatory body or obtain independent legal advice.

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.	Not 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.	Not 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

In the week of inspection one student aged under 18 was enrolled in the school. Numbers of under 18s are typically between one and four throughout the year. The school only accepts students aged 16+.

S1 At the time of the inspection the safeguarding policy did not contain information about handling delayed suitability checks. This information was added to the policy immediately after the inspection. This is no longer a point to be addressed.

S3 At the time of the inspection the parental consent form did not include examples of situations parents were consenting to. The form was amended after the inspection to include examples of when under 18s would not be supervised. This is no longer a point to be addressed.

Action taken on points to be addressed

Points from the previous full inspection and subsequent spot check with comments (in bold) to indicate how far these have been addressed. Only points reviewed during this spot check are included here. Any points outstanding will be checked at the next full inspection.

M10 Two references were not on file for recently recruited cover teachers.

Addressed. Two references were on file for all members of staff.

W2 (2024: W1) The emergency plan is insufficient in scope and is not made known to staff and students.

Addressed. The emergency plan includes provision for off-site incidents. Staff and students are regularly briefed on relevant aspects of the plan.

Conclusions

The school has been through various changes but the new management provides continuity and stability and the school has continued to review, develop, and improve its systems and procedures. Students receive a good level of care, and teachers benefit from support, monitoring and guidance from the new academic management team. Student numbers have increased and there are clear plans to grow its provision. The spot check has identified that the school is maintaining the standards as set out in the last inspection report and that it meets the standard for Safeguarding under 18s.