

Organisation name	Language Tuition Nottingham
Inspection date	12 July 2023
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: inspect new or additional premises. 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. However, evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in S2 and S4 have been addressed.

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 Language Tuition Nottingham in February 2021, November 2022, and July 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 for details).

This private language school offers courses in general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) in school premises.

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. The premises provide students and staff with a comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. A range of learning resources is available, appropriate to the age and needs of students. Guidance on the use of these resources is provided for staff and students where needed.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. In general, there is satisfactory provision within the organisation for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18. However additional training is required for those with specific safeguarding responsibilities and record keeping needs to be improved.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	February 2021
Last full inspection	February 2021
Subsequent spot check(s) (if applicable)	November 2022
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	Language courses: Spanish. Externally validated teacher training courses.
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a
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)	52	52
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16

Typical age range	16–30	16–30
Typical length of stay	4 weeks	4 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, Italian	Saudi Arabian, Italian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	4	4
Total number of managers including academic	2	2
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1	1

Premises profile

Address of main site	ZMU Ltd, Gothic House, Barker Gate, Nottingham NG1 1JU
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Main site

Introduction

Background

The school had informed the Accreditation Unit that it would be moving to new premises and was planning to accept students under the age of 18. The inspector was therefore asked to carry out a spot check focusing on premises and safeguarding under 18s. The school was informed that he might also sample classes as part of the check on premises and classroom management as regards under 18s.

Preparation

A week before the spot check, the inspector rang the school manager to check that the move had taken place and whether under 18s were currently studying at the school. He also looked at the school's website and relevant documents.

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at 10.15 and left at 13.15. He was given a tour of the premises by the senior teacher, carried out a brief lesson observation, and held a focus group meeting with the five under 18s currently studying at the school. He had two meetings with the school manager. The first of these related to the change of premises, courses, and the provision, which is currently limited to tuition-only. The second dealt with safeguarding criteria. Unfortunately, since the school's internet was not functioning it was not possible to examine most of the required documentary evidence. Much of this was provided later the same day, and other items shortly thereafter.

Findings

Premises and resources

The school relocated in June 2023 to new premises in a five-storey commercial building on a quiet street close to the centre of the city and bus routes. The school leases part of the second floor which is accessible by a small lift and stairs, the remaining part of the floor being shared with a small number of private offices, and separate toilet facilities for males and females. The entrance to the school is through a lockable door. Premises include a small reception area, six classrooms of varying size, an administration office, an open recreational area with a large table, seating, table football, board games, a small lending library, tea/coffee facilities, and a fridge and microwave for student use. There is also an area for teachers (staffroom with kitchenette, resource room, computer plus printer, workspaces, unisex toilets), and a quiet seating area.

The premises are in a good state of repair and cleanliness. Classrooms are light, quiet and appropriately furnished. There is a fire exit from within the school's premises and a second fire exit from the common area on the second floor.

Safeguarding under 18s

The school's safeguarding policy and parental consent letter are broadly satisfactory, but safeguarding practice does not fully meet criteria. Neither the designated safeguarding lead nor the deputy safeguarding lead have received safeguarding training beyond an introductory level, and some teachers hold only basic (rather than enhanced) DBS checks. The school does not have a leisure programme and does not arrange accommodation.

Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Met
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.	Met
P2 Classrooms and other learning areas provide a suitable study environment.	Met
P3 Students have adequate room and suitable facilities for relaxation and the consumption of food.	Met
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	
<p>P4 Free drinking water, coffee and tea are available. Students also have access to a microwave and a refrigerator where they can store lunch.</p> <p>P6 The teachers' area comprises a small staffroom with a kitchenette, the resources room, additional workspace, and a computer with linked printer. Although there is no lockable individual space for teachers' personal possessions, the staffroom can be locked.</p>	

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.	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.	Not met
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.	Not 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.	N/a
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

Five students under the age of 18 – just under ten per cent of the total student body – were following courses on the day of the spot check. Since the school has only just begun to accept under 18s, it is too early to assess whether these numbers will be typical for the summer period (June to August); outside the summer, no under 18s are expected.

S1 The safeguarding policy is generally satisfactory, but there is a lack of clarity as to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and the deputy DSL.

S2 No member of staff has had training beyond a basic/introductory level.

S3 Consent letters were on file for all current under 18s. However, the template contains inaccurate information concerning the time during which students will be unsupervised after classes end.

S4 Records of valid enhanced DBS checks were not on file for all staff with substantial access to under 18s.

S7 The school neither provides nor recommends accommodation. Records are, however, kept of students' local addresses.

Action taken on points to be addressed

The focus of this spot check was on premises and safeguarding (new area). No checks were carried out on points to be addressed in other areas.

Conclusions

The premises fully meet criteria. While minor aspects of safeguarding documents need revision, certain aspects of safeguarding practice require urgent attention.
