

Organisation name	Lexis School of English, London
Inspection date	2 February 2023
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. However, evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in S4 have been addressed. The next inspection falls due in 2024, 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 Lexis School of English, London in October 2019 and February 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+), and vacation courses for adults and young people (16+) and under 18s.

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

Updated summary inspection findings**Management**

The provision meets the section standard. The management of the provision operates to the benefit of the students, and in accordance with the provider's stated goals, values, and publicity.

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 the students. Guidance on the use of these resources is provided for staff and students where needed.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The academic staff team has a professional profile (qualifications, experience and continuing professional development) appropriate to the context. Teachers receive sufficient guidance to ensure that they support students effectively in their learning. Courses are structured and managed to provide the maximum possible benefit to students. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme.

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. Students benefit from well-managed student services, including, where offered, out-of-class activities and suitable accommodation.

Safeguarding under 18s

There is appropriate provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the organisation and in any leisure activities or accommodation provided.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	October 2019
Last full inspection	October 2019
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	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)	12	35
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	19	12
Typical age range	18–30	16–35
Typical length of stay	12 weeks	2 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Spanish, Iranian	Italian, Spanish
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	2	4
Total number of managers including academic	3	3
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	2	2

Premises profile

Address of main site	69 Ballards Lane, London N3 1XT
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Main site

Introduction

Background

Lexis School of English was first accredited in October 2019. In early 2020 when the pandemic hit, they moved their provision online, eventually reopening when this was possible. The two directors, director of studies (DoS) as well as one of the two teachers have all been in their posts since before the pandemic. The school occupies the same premises. This was a routine spot check of a newly accredited provider to follow up on points to be addressed from the previous inspection.

Preparation

The spot check inspector was sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit and looked at the school's website. The inspector contacted the school in mid-December 2022 and informed the school director 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 action plan on points to be addressed and an organogram. 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 (one of them was the DoS). The inspector arrived at the school's main building at 10.00 and left at 14.15. Meetings were held with the school director, accommodation and welfare officer, and DoS. There was a focus group with two teachers and another with students. The inspector asked to see a number of documents, including staff files and accommodation records, which were provided in paper form or electronically. Two of the three teachers teaching were observed. One teacher, who was conducting a progress test was not observed.

Findings

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

Action taken on points to be addressed

Management

M5 Action taken in response to feedback is not recorded in a consistent systematic way.

Not addressed. Although a new section was added to the feedback forms to record actions taken, no evidence was seen that this has been used. No evidence was seen that feedback is collated in any way.

M18 Students' relationships to their next of kin or other emergency contact, and whether the contact can speak English, are not recorded. The school's system for maintaining up-to-date records of students' local contact details is not sufficiently proactive to be reliable.

Addressed. This information is now recorded on the database.

Teaching and learning

T8 Very little guidance on continuous enrolment and the aspects of management affected is provided in the Teachers' Handbook.

Addressed. There is good guidance provided in the Teachers' Handbook, and helpful procedures for students to enable students to catch up on what they have missed.

T25 In most lessons the intended learning outcomes were not clearly identified and shared with the students.

Addressed. Learning outcomes are made clear on forward plans as well as menus on the whiteboard.

T26 A minority of teachers relied too heavily on asking students to define or explain the meaning of words.

Partially addressed. Clear explanations were given although opportunities to check understanding were sometimes missed.

T27 In several lessons boardwork was not well laid out or was too difficult to read because of the use of weak board pens.

Addressed. Boardwork was well organised and different colours were used to good effect.

T28 Occasionally, teachers corrected and moved on without checking the correction had been absorbed, and praise and encouragement were at times rather automatic and meaningless.

Addressed. Error correction was varied and well managed. Praise was focused and meaningful.

T30 Teachers' language was not always well graded to the level of their students.

Addressed. Teachers' language was well graded.

Welfare and student services

W2 The school's emergency plan does not deal adequately or in sufficient detail with major incidents which might happen when students are on and off site.

Addressed. The emergency plan is comprehensive.

W11 None of the school's homestays have been re-inspected. Fire risk assessments and Gas Safe certificates are not on file for all homestays.

Addressed. Homestay inspection records are up to date and fire risk assessments and gas safety certificates are in place.

W14 Rules relating to the number of students that may be accommodated at one time and to the sharing of rooms need to be added.

Addressed. This is clear in the information provided to homestays.

Safeguarding under 18s

S2 Some school staff, referred to in the safeguarding policy as providing cover for the DSL when necessary, have completed only basic awareness training.

Addressed. The training profile of the safeguarding team is appropriate.

S3 Further information on the parental consent form about the context in which under 18s have unsupervised free time would be helpful to the parent/guardian giving consent.

Addressed. This information has been added to the parental consent forms.

S4 There were no references on file for the five homestay hosts recruited since 1 January 2016. There was no evidence for a DBS check for the husband of a host who accepts students under 18.

Not addressed. Although phone references were taken, no record of these was made.

Conclusions

Most points to be addressed from the previous inspection have been addressed. Both students and teachers commented favourably on the warm, supportive environment created by the management team.