

Organisation name	LSI, Cambridge
Inspection date	27 June 2023
Current accreditation status	Accreditation under review
Reason for spot check	Signalled: end period under review

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The period of review may now be ended and accreditation continued until the next full inspection, which falls due in 2026.

Changes to the summary statement

An updated summary statement can now be issued.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited the LSI Cambridge in September 2022 and June 2023. The Accreditation Scheme assesses the standards of management, resources and premises, teaching, welfare, and care of 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 and professional English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and closed group and vacation courses for under 18s.

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. The safeguarding policy in place covers all the required areas and training is thorough. Systems for monitoring students inside and outside scheduled activities are appropriate. Accommodation provision is good and complete records are on file.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	1994
Last full inspection	September 2022
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	LSI Central, LSI Brighton
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)	57	223 (78 main school & 145 Abbey college)
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	15	9 if in a closed group
Typical age range	22–25	14–28
Typical length of stay	8 weeks	4 weeks

Predominant nationalities	Spanish, Italian	Taiwanese, Spanish, Italian, Turkish
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	10	20
Total number of managers including academic	4	6
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	4	6

Premises profile

Address of main site	41 Tenison Road, Cambridge CB1 2DG
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	Abbey College, Homerton Gardens, Purbeck Road, Cambridge
Sites inspected	Main site

Introduction

Background

Following the full inspection in September 2022, the school was placed under review because the section standard for safeguarding under 18s was not met and there were weaknesses in M18, W2, W11 and W26. The period of review to be ended by submission of an action plan within three months and a spot check within six months, at a time when under 18s were enrolled.

The school offers general and intensive courses in English to adults (16+). LSI Cambridge also offers examination preparation courses and, if there is sufficient demand, an afternoon business course and combination courses. Some students take group courses combined with one-to-one lessons. The school offers closed group courses to young learners (12 to 17 year-olds) throughout the year and open enrolment classes to young learners of the same age range in January and February and in the summer.

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 prior to the spot check to clarify how many students, including under 18s, would be on site during June but did not indicate when the inspection would take place.

Programme and persons present

In the week of the spot check, there were four teachers working on daytime classes. Of the 35 students enrolled 22 were under 18. They included a group from Liechtenstein and some individual open enrolment 16 to 17 year-old students.

The inspector arrived at the school at 09.30 and left at 14.20. Meetings were held with the principal, the senior teacher, the accommodation officer and the social programme organiser who is also a teacher. The principal is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the senior teacher is the deputy DSL. The senior teacher will assume the role of centre manager when the summer junior courses start at Abbey College. The social programme organiser will also be moving to Abbey College to oversee the activity and leisure programme. In addition to the meetings the inspector viewed a variety of policy documents and completed records including: staff files, electronic and paper student records. She also held a focus group meeting with a group of under 18s. No teaching was observed.

Findings

Management

There have been no significant changes in staffing since the last inspection. Findings in other aspects of this area are reported in the Action taken on points to be addressed.

Premises and resources

There have been no significant changes since the last inspection. There were no action points to be addressed.

Teaching and learning

No criteria in this section were examined during this inspection.

Welfare and student services

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

Safeguarding under 18s

Findings are reported in the following section.

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.	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.	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

At the time of the inspection 22 students were aged under 18. In peak summer months all students at Abbey College are under 18 and approximately 25 per cent of the student body at the main school are aged 16 to 17.

S1 The policy is now reviewed annually, and the names of the DSL and deputy are accurate, and their contact details are provided. Simplified policy information is shared with students at induction and through weekly meetings for under 18s.

S2 All members of administrative and teaching teams have completed a basic awareness safeguarding course and the DSL and deputy DSL have completed advanced and specialist levels. The school's safeguarding policy is sent to all staff, hosts and group leaders. All school staff have received basic awareness training as have homestay hosts accommodating under 18s.

S3 The consent form provides examples of unsupervised time.

S4 Recruitment procedures are satisfactory, and safer recruitment is included in the safeguarding policy sent to prospective staff. In the records sampled, all adults in the homestays hosting under 18s had been DBS checked. There was evidence that the suitability of group leaders had also been checked.

S5 Suitable arrangements are in place for the supervision and safety of students during scheduled lessons and activities.

S6 Arrangements for the supervision and safety of students outside scheduled lessons and activities are generally satisfactory the consent form signed by parents or guardians indicates when students may be unsupervised.

S7 All under 18s on adult courses are accommodated in homestays and students at Abbey College stay in the college residences. The guidelines given to the homestay providers make explicit the requirements for a responsible adult to be present, and for students under 16 not to be lodged with students aged 18 or over.

S8 In the records sampled, the information to ensure contact could be established between the school and parents and guardians was satisfactory.

Action taken on points to be addressed

Points to be addressed within six months

Management

M18 Local and emergency contact information is not available on all students at the school.

Addressed. The student files sampled were all complete.

Welfare and student services

W2 The group-wide emergency response policy does not cover all potential risks and staff and students are not made aware of it. The policy does not include local staff responsibilities or procedures.

Addressed. The policy has been thoroughly reviewed by a working party, revised and shared across the organisation. The policy was also shared with all Cambridge staff at a CPD session and a workshop session is included in the induction training for the temporary summer staff joining the school for the summer programme.

W11 DBS and gas safety certificates were not on file for some of the sampled homestay hosts.

Addressed. A selection of files was sampled and they were all complete. The electronic records are very comprehensive and the accommodation officer is easily able to identify when renewals are needed. She emails hosts to remind them and maintains up-to-date records.

W25 There is no named person with specific responsibilities for the management of the leisure programme.

Addressed. A named person is now specified and responsible for the leisure programme.

W26 Risk assessments are not in place for all activities offered by the school.

Partially addressed. Risk assessments for all aspects of the social and activity programme were available on file. However, they do not routinely include information on how to respond to situations where students are at risk.

Safeguarding under 18s

Points to be addressed from the previous inspections are subsumed in the Safeguarding under 18s section above.

Conclusions

The school has systematically addressed the weaknesses identified in its provision of care for students aged under 18 and has made satisfactory progress in rectifying other points raised in the previous reports.
