

Organisation name	MCSE (formerly Manchester Central School of English)
Inspection date	9 July 2019
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: inspect new or additional premises Signalled: check course not running at inspection

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2022; 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 MCSE in August 2018 and in July 2019. 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 and professional English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and vacation courses for under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of student administration, premises and facilities, learning resources, academic management, teaching, and care of students.

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

New summary inspection findings

Management

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The school operates effectively and responsibly in accordance with its publicity and to the benefit of its students. Systems work efficiently and there is a sound allocation of administrative resources. There is evidence of a genuine concern for quality, and of steady and continuing improvement. However, publicity understated the maximum number of students per class in the junior vacation course. *Student administration* is an area of strength.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2006
Last full inspection	2018
Subsequent spot check(s) (if applicable)	2019 (this spot check)
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	Externally validated pre-service teachers' 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)	128	128
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	10	10
Typical age range	13–14	13–14
Typical length of stay	4 weeks	4 weeks

Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti	Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	6	6
Total number of managers including academic	3	3
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	8	8

Premises profile

Address of main site	Royal Buildings, Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3AN
Additional sites in use	University of Salford, Mary Seacole Building, Frederick Road, Salford M6 5ST
Additional sites not in use	None.
Sites inspected	University of Salford

Introduction

Background

After the 2018 full inspection, accreditation was continued with a recommendation for a spot check to inspect the junior vacation course held at University of Salford.

Preparation

The school was contacted in advance to check the dates of the junior vacation course and the availability of key personnel.

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at 08.45 on day four of the first week of the course, held meetings with the centre manager, the academic manager and the activity manager, visited the residential accommodation and had lunch with students and staff before leaving at 13.30.

Findings

Management

Recruiting staff for the course, and retaining those recruited, had proved difficult. As a consequence, the centre manager was the main school's head of administration, the academic manager was the main school's director of studies and the number of teachers was two below what was required. This led to the maximum number of students in each class exceeding that given in the publicity. Two new teachers were due to arrive the following week.

Premises and resources

The course is held on the University of Salford campus. This comprises a number of modern buildings located in extensive parklands. Classrooms are of a good size and are quiet, flexibly furnished and well equipped. They are clean and well decorated. There is a large room for staff to use. There are sufficient learning resources.

Teaching and learning

All the teachers have a Level six qualification and are TEFLI. The academic manager is TEFLQ and very experienced. The course structure is based on core textbooks that are suitable for the age group, supplemented with materials provided by the school or by teachers themselves. There was very comprehensive support available to the teachers both in person from the academic manager and online in terms of lesson plans and core and supplementary materials.

Welfare and student services

The students are housed in a secure modern on-campus residence in 'flats' of between six and eight ensuite rooms that share good-sized common kitchen/social areas.

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.	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.	Strength

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 used at the University of Salford are in excellent condition and provide an extremely comfortable environment for students and staff.	
P2 Classrooms are quiet, flexibly furnished, well equipped and provide a wholly suitable environment for study.	
P4 The food provided for the students is varied, healthy and of very good quality.	

Leisure opportunities – junior vacation course	Area of strength
W23 Students have appropriate information about and access to social, cultural and sporting events and activities which enhance their experience of studying in the UK.	Met
W24 The content of any leisure programme is appropriate to the age and interests of the students.	Strength
W25 Any leisure programmes are well organised and sufficiently resourced.	Strength
W26 There are effective systems to ensure the health and safety of students on all on-site and off-site activities.	Met
W27 Staff supervising sporting and leisure activities on or off-site have appropriate experience and training.	Strength

Comments	
W24 The extensive range of leisure activities on offer is wholly suited to the students' needs.	
W25 There are excellent resources available both in terms of equipment and personnel.	
W27 The activity leaders have a very wide range of experience and skills in various domains to underpin the leisure programme.	

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.	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.	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 there were 128 students between the ages of 10 and 17 enrolled on the Salford summer vacation course.	
S4 Arrangements in this area are generally satisfactory but no reference had been obtained for one teacher returning after a period of more than three months.	

Action taken on points to be addressed

Welfare and student services

W14 More could be done to get a better return on written early-bird and end-of-course evaluation of all types of accommodation.

Addressed for the vacation course. A feedback questionnaire had been prepared for circulation at the end of the week.

Safeguarding under 18s

S3 The school's parental consent form does not clearly separate information for the parent to read and understand from items for which the parent's consent is needed.

Addressed. The consent form has been redesigned and is now satisfactory.

Conclusions

The junior vacation course being run on the University of Salford campus was being effectively managed and operated, albeit with two senior managers from the main school filling the centre and academic management roles. The premises, including the residential accommodation for the students, are modern, in very good condition and secure. They provide an excellent venue for a course of this type.
