

Organisation name	Newbury Hall School, Newbury
Inspection date	4 July 2019
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

### 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 Newbury Hall School in June 2018 and 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](http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation) for details).

This private language school offers courses in general English for 13–17 year-olds.

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, learning resources, course design, care of students, leisure opportunities, and safeguarding under 18s.

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

### Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	June 2018
Last full inspection	June 2018
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	OISE and Regent Groups, Sherbourne Priors
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak week: 22-26 July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	38	58
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	13	13
Typical age range	13–17	13–17
Typical length of stay	2–3 weeks	2–3 weeks
Predominant nationalities	French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Turkish	French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Turkish
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	12	12
Total number of managers including academic	4	4
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	25	25

<b>Premises profile</b>	
Address of main site	Newbury Hall School, Enborne Road, Newbury RG14 6AD
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Newbury Hall School

## **Introduction**

### **Background**

Newbury Hall School is part of Instill Education Limited, which runs a number of schools worldwide, including the Oxford Intensive Schools of English (OISE). The school was first purchased by OISE in 1980. By 2009 the school was registered with the Department for Education and was offering academic-year courses, including A-levels and GCSEs in accounting, maths and business. The school is now focusing on shorter-term year-round courses.

The school runs courses of 30 hours per week, entitled 'Intensive academic literacy' and 'Intensive exam skills' with a maximum of eight students per class. Subject lessons in, for example, maths, science or philosophy, are also available and are taught in English.

Newbury Hall was inspected and accredited in 2018, and this was a routine spot check for a newly accredited provider.

### **Preparation**

The inspector contacted the centre in May to check if there were any dates which would not be suitable for the inspection, and to ensure key staff would be present. The Accreditation Unit sent school documentation to the inspector who also looked at the website, the previous report, declaration and other relevant documentation.

### **Programme and persons present**

The inspector arrived at 12.00 and departed at 17.00. He had meetings with the head of school and education, and the head of boarding. Focus group meetings were held with teachers and a group of students. All relevant documents were provided for the inspector.

## **Findings**

### **Management**

Since the last inspection, the principal left the school and the previous director of studies was appointed head of school and education. Management, teaching and administration staff reported that this transition had been smooth with minimal impact on the day-to-day operations of the school. The school launched a new website in 2019.

### **Premises and resources**

Since the last inspection, a schedule of works has been put in place to timetable refurbishment and decoration.

### **Teaching and learning**

Course design and academic management are mostly unchanged since the last inspection. The head of school and education is supported by a senior teacher through the summer period. Teachers reported that they felt supported by the academic management team. One of two teachers without qualifications which met the requirements of the Scheme at the time of the last inspection is no longer working at the school. The other teacher has now gained an appropriate TEFL qualification. The teaching team has ELT/TESOL qualifications relevant to the courses they are teaching.

### **Welfare and student services**

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

### **Safeguarding under 18s**

The provision for safeguarding is unchanged from the previous inspection.

## **Action taken on points to be addressed**

*Points from the previous full inspection and/or subsequent spot checks or interim visits 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.*

### **Management**

M12 There is no clear written policy for handling unsatisfactory performance in terms of capability rather than disciplinary matters.

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**Addressed. There is now a policy for handling unsatisfactory performance published in the staff handbook.**

M24 The outline description of courses on the website is very limited and does not give clear information on objectives and levels.

**Addressed. Information on the website is now clear, accurate and gives the required information on objectives and levels.**

#### **Premises and resources**

P1 The boys and girls toilets are not clean and need some repair and re-decoration.

**Addressed. The toilets are now clean and have been repaired.**

#### **Welfare and student services**

W14 Some hosts need to be reminded that eating together with the students and frequent changes of bed linen are stipulated in the school's expectations of a good host.

**Addressed. Hosts have been reminded of the school's expectations.**

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### **Conclusions**

The past year has seen Newbury Hall maintain high standards in all aspects of its provision. The recent change of leadership has been implemented smoothly and the transition has not affected the structure of the school or its daily operations. This signifies that there are good management structures and systems in place. The school has responded to action points from the previous report and has addressed all of the points focused on during this spot check. No significant issues have arisen from this spot check and all documentation viewed was satisfactory.

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