

Organisation name	Newcastle International School
Inspection date	3 July 2025
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2028; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

Changes to the summary statement

The need for improvement in *Publicity* can now be removed.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Newcastle International School in July 2025. 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 under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of academic management, course design, and teaching,

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

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 and values.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. The premises provide students and staff with a safe, 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 and exceeds it in some respects. The academic staff team has a professional profile (qualifications, experience and continuing professional development) appropriate to the context. Teachers receive very good guidance to ensure that they support students effectively in their learning. Courses are well structured and managed to provide the maximum possible benefit to students. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme. *Academic management, Course design and Teaching are areas of strength.*

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. In general, the needs of students for security and pastoral care are met; tolerance and respect for others is part of the ethos of the organisation and students are offered a range of appropriate leisure activities. Homestay accommodation is comfortable and meets the needs of students. However, the major emergency procedure is incomplete.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. There are good measures in place to ensure the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the organisation and in the leisure activities provided. However, references had not been collected for homestay hosts.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance.

Sampling of documentation revealed an issue in relation to the Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance, which the provider has been asked to follow up.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	May 2024
Last full inspection	May 2024
Subsequent checks/visits (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	Estimate at peak: August
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	14	30
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16
Typical age range	18–24	18–24
Typical length of stay	4–8 weeks	4–8 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Omani, Saudi Arabian	Omani, Saudi Arabian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	5	6
Total number of managers including academic	2	2
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	0	0

Academic manager qualifications profile

Profile at inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of academic managers
TEFLQ qualification and at least three years' full-time relevant teaching experience	0
Academic managers without TEFLQ qualification or three years' relevant experience	1
Total	1

Comments

The acting academic manager took over the role in April 2024. While he completes his diploma level training he is assisted by the previous (TEFLQ) academic manager on a part-time consultancy basis.

Teacher qualifications profile

Profile in week of inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of teachers
TEFLQ qualification/profile	0
TEFLI qualification	5
ATEFL registered portfolio in progress*	0
Non-ELT-related qualified teacher status only (for short courses for under 18s)*	0
Holding specialist qualifications only (for ESP/CLIL)*	0
Alternative professional profile*	0
Total	5

Comments

Not all teachers were TEFLI at the previous inspection. Now they all are.

Premises profile

Address of main site	Unit 37A Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4HZ
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a

Sites inspected	Main
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Introduction

Background

Newcastle International School was opened in 2017 by the current owner/director. The managing director (MD), who is also the acting academic manager, joined in May 2023 and has been working to build the staff team and introduce new systems. The premises are leased and used only for students aged 16+.

Preparation

The spot check was carried out by one inspector, who had been involved in the previous inspection in 2023. The inspector contacted the provider in advance to check if there were any dates which would not be suitable and when key staff would be present. The Accreditation Unit sent the inspector relevant documents. The inspector looked at the NIS website.

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at 11.00 and left at 15.30. He visited the main school site in Blandford Square. Meetings were held with the owner/director of the school, the managing director/acting academic manager and the senior teacher/accommodation manager/designated safeguarding lead. Upon arrival, the inspector requested a range of documents, all of which were provided.

Findings

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

Comments

Points to be addressed

Action taken on points to be addressed

Points from the previous full inspection 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

M10 Recruitment procedures include a clear checklist; however, they have not been fully implemented as there was no evidence of checks on previous employment for the current team.

Addressed. There is now evidence of a sufficient number of checks on previous employment.

M22 There are several typographic errors and/or examples of inaccurate English.

Addressed. No such errors were observed.

M23 The stated number of hours does not take breaks into account. Information on non-teaching days is insufficiently specific

Addressed. Teaching and break times are clearly distinguished.

M25 Information on care and support for under-18s is clear, but students only receive it after enrolment.

Addressed. The information is now available before enrolment.

Welfare and student services

W1 A major emergency plan detailing how to respond to emergencies on and off-site is not in place.

Partially addressed. Although various elements of a major emergency procedure are in place, it is limited in scope and relates solely to onsite procedures.

W9 A number of gas safe certificates were missing.

Addressed. Gas safe certificates are now available.

Safeguarding under 18s

S1 Although a clear safeguarding policy is in place, it did not contain guidance on how to handle delayed suitability checks.

Addressed. Satisfactory guidance is now provided.

S4 Staff and homestay hosts did not have two references on file asking about suitability to work with/host under 18s.

Not addressed. Not all staff and homestay hosts have two references asking about their suitability to work with under 18s.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance.

Sampling of documentation revealed an issue in relation to the Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance which the provider has been asked to follow up.

Addressed. The issue identified has been satisfactorily followed up.

Items requiring early action

Evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in W1 and S4 have been addressed.
