

Organisation name	OISE Young Learners, head office Oxford
Inspection date	14 July 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 OISE Young Learners in July 2022 and July 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 was a compliance-only inspection during which the inspectors focused only on whether inspection criteria were met or not met. Inspectors did not evaluate the extent to which requirements were exceeded and no strengths were awarded. No new summary statement has been issued; please refer to the last inspection report for any areas of strength previously awarded.

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

Updated summary inspection findings

Management

The provision meets the section standard. Although the management of the provision operates in general to the benefit of the students and in clear accordance with the school's stated goals and values, the publicity lacks some information.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. Overall, the school provides its students with appropriate pastoral care, in a safe environment. The school offers comfortable residential accommodation and a leisure programme which is designed to meet the needs of the students.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. There is appropriate provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the school, and in the leisure activities and accommodation provided. There is a clear and comprehensive safeguarding policy, and staff are well trained to implement it.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	1984
Last full inspection	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	Regent London, OISE Cambridge, OISE Oxford, Newbury Hall, Pilgrims Young Learners, Basil Paterson
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak week: <i>July</i>
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	74	74
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	11	11
Typical age range	14–15	14–15
Typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks
Predominant nationalities	French, Chinese, Argentinian	French, Chinese, Argentinian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	7	7
Total number of managers including academic	2	2
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	2	2

Premises profile	
Address of main site	OISE Stowe, Buckingham MK18 5EH
Additional sites in use	None in 2023
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	OISE Stowe

Introduction

Background

Following the compliance-only inspection in July and September 2022 accreditation was placed under review because the section standards for welfare and student services and safeguarding under 18s were not met. The school was required to provide evidence within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in publicity, welfare, and safeguarding had been addressed, the period of review to be ended by a spot check to take place when junior group courses were running.

OISE Young Learners is part of the Instil Group (IG). IG is a global education company, working in the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Spain, and Ireland. In the UK, IG consists of five schools which are accredited by the British Council: OISE Cambridge, Basil Paterson, Newbury Hall, Pilgrims Young Learners, and Regent London.

OISE Young Learners (OISEYL) is staffed and run from OISE headquarters in Oxford by the operations manager. OISEYL centre staff are employed for the summer period only and several are returners from previous years. The centre selected for the inspection, Stowe School (Stowe), was chosen as it is the only summer young learner centre in operation by OISE in the summer of 2023.

Preparation

The spot check inspectors were sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit and looked at the school's website. One inspector contacted the school directly prior to the inspection to check which centres were running and to ascertain any days when staff and students may be off site on excursions. The date of the spot check inspection was not indicated.

Programme and persons present

In the week of the spot check, there were eight teachers working on daytime classes. Two small groups of students were accompanied by their own dedicated group leader, and the remaining students were not accompanied.

The inspectors arrived at the school's main building at 10.15 and left at 16.00. One inspector also visited the head office the following day and briefly met the operations director and viewed documentation unavailable at the Stowe site. The inspectors met the academic leader and the course leader who is also the designated safeguarding officer. They had meetings with a group of younger students, the teens group, and the two group leaders. They held meetings with the seven teachers and with the seven activity leaders. They asked to see various documents, which were provided in paper form or electronically. They did not observe any teaching.

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 in resources since the last inspection. Findings in relation to Premises are reported in the Action taken on points to be addressed.

Teaching and learning

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

Welfare and student services

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

Safeguarding under 18s

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

Welfare and student services

Care of students	Met
W1 Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.	Met
W2 There is a comprehensive plan to respond to any emergency. This plan is known to all staff, and relevant elements are known to students.	Met
W3 Students receive pastoral care appropriate to their age, background and circumstances. All staff and students know the name(s) of the person or people who deal with students' personal problems.	Met
W4 There are policies to promote tolerance and respect, and procedures for dealing with any abusive behaviour. All staff and students are aware of these.	Met
W5 Where relevant, students receive a 24-hour emergency contact number for the provider, in writing.	Met
W6 Students receive in advance information on the most appropriate forms of transport between the point of entry to the UK and the provider or accommodation, including approximate costs.	Met
W7 Students receive advice on relevant aspects of life in the UK.	Met
W8 Students have access to adequate health care provision.	Met
Comments	
All criteria in this subsection are now fully met.	

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	
All criteria in this subsection are now fully met.	

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.

Points which must be addressed before continued accreditation can be recommended

Welfare and student services

W1 The school has not undertaken a risk assessment of its use of the Stowe site, including the presence of external visitors who have access to the site.

Addressed. A comprehensive risk assessment has been completed and suitable measures are in place.

W2 The crisis management plan was not shared with staff at Brasenose College.

Addressed. Brasenose College is no longer a summer centre. At Stowe all staff were familiar with the plan and with the procedures to be followed.

W8 First aid provision at Brasenose College is inadequate, and staff on site were not aware of local healthcare services available.

Addressed. At Stowe the six activity leaders are all first aiders. Brasenose College is no longer a summer centre.

W25 On both sites, written guides and plans for activities were not adequate.

Addressed. Packs of ideas and instructions are available for different activities. The course leader supports activity leaders with planning the specific details for each activity. Leaders expressed satisfaction with the level of support provided.

W26 There are no specific written risk assessments for any on or off-site activities at Brasenose College.

Partially addressed. Written risk assessments are in place but they do not routinely specify how to respond to situations where students are at risk. Staff accompanying students on excursions are however briefed verbally on what steps should be taken.

Safeguarding under 18s

S2 The on-site safeguarding leads on both campuses had not received the specialist level of safeguarding training, and support from the specialist-trained lead based in the head office was not adequate. In addition, not all other on-site staff have received basic-level training.

Addressed. The Stowe course leader and academic leader had both recently received training to Advanced level and are supported by the head office DSL who is qualified to Specialist level. All other staff at Stowe had completed basic level training.

S4 A number of staff files did not have the required number of reference checks included.

Addressed. All staff files viewed at head office were complete.

S8 Staff at Brasenose College were not clear about the arrangements to ensure contact with parents, guardians or nominated representatives.

Addressed. Contact details were readily available to staff who may require the information.

Points to be addressed within 12 months

Management

M10 Some teachers' files did not contain counter-signed copies of required qualifications or sufficient references.

Addressed. The staff files checked at head office were complete.

M24 Publicity does not always give clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on the courses.

Partially addressed. Some information, viewed at the time of the inspection in hard copy by inspectors, was available on a downloadable PDF earlier in the spring but it was removed from the website prior to the summer and the inspection as it also contained information about courses and centres not in operation.

M25 Publicity for Stowe does not include easy-to-find information on costs.

Partially addressed. The information provided is limited to 'The price includes the hours of tuition per week, full-board accommodation and a fully-supervised cultural programme'.

M26 Publicity or other information made available before enrolment does not give an accurate description of the level of care and support given to any students under 18.

Partially addressed. There is insufficient information readily available. To receive information about supervision website users have to request a brochure; they are unable to do this without supplying an email address.

Conclusions

The school has worked hard to address the weaknesses identified in its provision of care for students aged under 18 and has made satisfactory progress in rectifying the majority of points raised in the previous reports.
