

Organisation name	St Giles Brighton
Inspection date	30 March 2025
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 2028.

Changes to the summary statement

An updated summary statement can now be issued.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited St Giles Brighton in October 2024 and March 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 large language school offers courses in general, academic and professional for English adults (18+) and under 18s and for closed groups of adults (18+) and under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, staff management, learning resources, academic staff profile, academic management, learner management and care of students.

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

Summary inspection findings**Management**

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. Strategic and quality management processes are robust and effective and channels of communication are good. Staff are well managed and there is a strong collegiate ethos within the school, underpinned by good systems for staff development and training. Student administration is handled efficiently and effectively, and, on the whole, publicity is clear. *Strategic and quality management* and *Staff management* are areas of strength.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The premises provide students with a safe, comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. There is a very good range of learning resources available, which is well maintained and organised, with guidance and training provided for staff and students. *Learning resources* is an area of strength.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The academic staff team has a strong professional profile which is very well matched to the context. Teachers and students receive excellent support, and courses are managed to provide the maximum possible benefit to students. Course design is effective. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme. *Academic staff profile*, *Academic management* and *Learner management* are areas of strength.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The school provides its students with very good pastoral care. It offers a wide range of comfortable, friendly and conveniently located accommodation, which is well managed. The leisure programme is designed to meet the needs of the students very well. *Care of students* is an area of strength.

Safeguarding under 18s

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

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	1982
Last full inspection	2024
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	March 2025
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	St Giles London Central, St Giles London Highgate, St Giles Brighton, St Giles Cambridge, St Giles Juniors (residential summer camps in a variety of locations in the UK)
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	St Giles Vancouver

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	114	320
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	14	14
Typical age range	14–69	14–70
Typical length of stay	8 weeks	8 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, Turkish, Korean	Saudi Arabian, Swiss, Turkish
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	16	25
Total number of managers including academic	4	4
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	8	10

Premises profile

Address of main site	1–3 Marlborough Place, Brighton BN1 1UB
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	As above

Introduction

Background

St Giles International Brighton is part of the St Giles group. The school is located in the centre of Brighton. The school runs general English and exam preparation courses for adults and young people (16+). Younger students, aged 14 and 15, are also accommodated throughout the year, either joining adult classes or studying in dedicated groups with other under-18 learners. The school also has a 'Platinum Centre' that runs courses for executives and professionals in small groups or one-to-one.

The school's operations are overseen by the principal, who holds ultimate responsibility for areas including finance, premises, recruitment, human resources, and daily management. The principal reports directly to the managing director of the St Giles group. Support is provided by the director of studies, assistant director of studies, the director of the platinum centre, the head of teacher training and the senior accommodation and welfare officer.

The school offers accommodation in homestays, its own residence and two university residences. Under 18s are only offered homestay accommodation which is all managed by the school.

This was a signalled spot check inspection to follow up on a full inspection in October 2024 when accreditation was placed under review due to the section standard for Safeguarding under 18s being not met as well as weaknesses in P1 and a need for improvement in *Leisure opportunities*.

Preparation

The spot check was carried out by two inspectors. The lead inspector contacted the provider in advance to check when key staff would be present and if there were any dates which would not be suitable. The Accreditation Unit sent the inspectors relevant documents and they looked at the school's website.

Programme and persons present

The inspectors arrived at the school at 11.00 and left at 15.00. Meetings were held with the principal, leisure programme coordinator and the designated safeguarding person, as well as the accommodation team and the director of studies. Focus group meetings were held with adult students, under 18s and teachers. There was a tour of the premises. Upon arrival, the inspectors requested a range of documents, which were provided.

Findings

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

Premises and resources

Since the previous inspection, a safety and security risk assessment has been carried out of the main school premises, and steps have been taken to address security issues concerning the school premises. These measures include increased supervision arrangements, restrictions of access to the premises and wristbands for all students. The school's residence has reviewed its fire safety procedures.

Welfare and student services

Since the previous inspection, the management and leisure programme team have reviewed documentation and practices relating to the leisure programme.

Safeguarding under 18s

A full review of arrangements, parental consent, publicity and supervision for under 18s in general, and under 16s in particular has taken place locally and at the level of the St Giles International group. The accommodation team has reviewed its systems for the accommodation of under 18s, particularly suitability checks for homestay hosts. As a result, policies, documents and practices have been updated and staff have been trained in revised safeguarding protocols.

Leisure opportunities	Met
W19 Students have appropriate information about and access to social, cultural and sporting events and activities which enhance their experience of studying in the UK.	Strength
W20 The content of any leisure programme is appropriate to the age and interests of the students.	Strength
W21 Any leisure programmes are well organised and sufficiently resourced.	Met
W22 There are effective systems to ensure the health and safety of students on all on-site and off-site activities.	Met
W23 Staff supervising sporting and leisure activities on or off-site have appropriate experience, support and training.	Met

Comments

W19 The school provides extensive information about social, cultural and sporting events. The social programme organiser is available to students during breaks and provides excellent additional support or advice where required. W20 There is a wide range of leisure activities available ensuring that all students' interests and circumstances are catered for. The programme is responsive to student feedback and suggestions.

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

The school regularly accepts 16 and 17 year-olds on adult courses. It also accepts students aged 14 or 15. A rationale is provided for these students when they are enrolled on adult courses. At the time of the spot check inspection, there were two students aged 16 and 17 enrolled on adult courses, and one 14 year-old. At peak times approximately 80 under 18s are enrolled, and those aged under 16 are taught separately from adult courses.

All criteria in this area are fully met.

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.

Premises and resources

P1 Regular fire drills had not been carried out at the student residence. The premises risk assessment for the school were insufficiently robust and do not fully address risks in relation to access and security.

Addressed. Fire drills at the residence are now carried out and recorded. The premises risk assessment clearly identifies and addresses risks in relation to access and security. Appropriate measures are in place to mitigate for risks.

Welfare and student services

W21 There are no drawn up plans or itineraries for excursions.

Addressed. Appropriate plans and itineraries are now drawn up for all excursions and activities.

W22 Risk assessments do not sufficiently refer to the specific group composition and local conditions, and do not cover unsupervised free time for under 18s or under 16s.

Addressed. Risk assessments now make reference to student profiles and group composition.

Unsupervised free time for under 18s and under 16s has been assessed and appropriate measures have been put in place.

Safeguarding under 18s

S3 The consent form does not accurately reflect the situation that parents/guardians are consenting to. Specifically, it states that students aged 14 and 15 will normally study in classes with students aged 14 to 17, when outside the summer they are often placed in classes with adults.

Addressed. The consent form now reflects the situation that parents/guardians are agreeing to, including the possibility that their child will be placed in adult classes.

S4 The references for some homestay hosts who are hosting under 18s do not comment on their suitability to work with under 18s. One of the homestay host files sampled did not include evidence of a current criminal records check.

Addressed. All references for homestay hosts who are hosting under 18s now include a comment on their suitability to work with under 18s. There are effective systems in place to ensure that all suitability checks are carried out in a timely fashion.

S5 Risk assessments, supervision and measures in place to safeguard under 16s outside class time are inadequate. The requirement to attend three leisure activities per week for under 16s is not enforced effectively.

Addressed. Risk assessments, supervision and measures in place to safeguard under 16s outside class time are appropriate. There is a clear system in place to ensure that students aged under 16 attend three afternoon leisure activities per week. Staff and students are very well aware of the measures in place.

S7 At the time of the inspection, one student aged under 16 was living in a homestay which was also hosting a student aged over 18.

Addressed. Monitoring measures including weekly student check-in meetings have been put in place to ensure that no student aged under 16 stays with a student aged over 18.

Conclusions

The provider should be commended on its efforts to address the points from the previous report, which have all been addressed. The inspectors felt that the school has put in place many effective measures to ensure the safety and security of all students, in particular, under 18s and 16s, and has trained staff appropriately.

Items requiring early action

None.
