

Organisation name	St Giles Eastbourne
Inspection date	25 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 Eastbourne 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](http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation) for details).

This large language school offers courses in general, academic and professional English for adults (18+) and under 18s and for closed groups of adults (18+) and under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of premises and facilities, learning resources, academic staff profile, academic management, learner management, care of students and leisure opportunities.

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 clearly stated goals and values, and their publicity. The structure of the organisation is well established, communication is good and student administration is carried out efficiently and effectively.

### Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The premises provide students and staff with a very comfortable, pleasant and professional environment for work and relaxation. A very good range of learning resources is available, appropriate to the age and needs of the students. Teachers are provided with a very good range of materials and resources to support learning. *Premises and facilities* and *Learning resources* are areas of strength.

### Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The academic staff team has a professional profile which is very well matched to the context. Teachers and students receive very good 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 range of comfortable, friendly and conveniently located accommodation which, overall, is well managed. The leisure programme is well designed, varied, and well managed. *Care of students* and *Leisure opportunities* are areas of strength.

### 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 safeguarding policy, and staff are well trained to implement it.

## Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

## Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	1986
Last full inspection	30 October 2024
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	25 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)	39	240
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	15	14
Typical age range	14-49	14-50
Typical length of stay	6–24 weeks	6–24 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, Swiss, Colombian	Saudi Arabian, Swiss, Italian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	5	20
Total number of managers including academic	2	2
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	4	5

## Premises profile

Address of main site	13 Silverdale Road, Eastbourne BN20 7AJ
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	As above

## Introduction

### Background

St Giles International Eastbourne is a school within the family-owned St Giles International group. The school, located near Eastbourne's town centre and a short walk from the beach, offers general English and exam preparation courses to adults and young people (16+). Younger students, aged 14 and 15, are also accommodated throughout the year, either in dedicated groups with other under-18 learners or joining adult classes.

The school's operations are overseen by the acting principal (AP), who holds ultimate responsibility for areas including finance, premises, recruitment, human resources, and daily management. The AP reports directly to the managing director of the St Giles group. Support is provided by the ADoS, student services officer, accommodation and welfare officer, and social programme organiser.

The school offers accommodation in homestays, and partners with a small number of local hotels. There is a small self-catering option within 25 minutes walking distance of the school, offered by the homeowner for up to five students who want a more independent alternative to homestay.

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.

## Preparation

The spot check was carried out by two inspectors. The lead 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 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 AP, student services and under 18s officer and accommodation and welfare officer (who is also the designated safeguarding person). 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 full safety and security risk assessment has been carried out, and steps have been taken to address security issues concerning the school premises. These measures include patrols of the school's grounds, door controls, increased supervision arrangements, restrictions of access to the premises, wristbands for all students, the locking of outdoor classrooms and staff training.

#### Welfare and student services

Since the previous inspection, the welfare and student services team have reviewed compliance, safety and suitability checks. An active homestay host list has been put in place, ensuring that all hosts have appropriate checks in place, and that any renewals of checks are flagged in advance.

#### 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. As a result, policies, documents and practices have been updated, and staff have been trained in revised safeguarding protocols.

### Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Area of strength
P1 Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.	Met
P2 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
P3 Classrooms and other learning areas provide a suitable study environment.	Met
P4 Students have adequate room and suitable facilities for relaxation and the consumption of food.	Strength
P5 There is adequate signage to buildings, routes, rooms and exits, and there are facilities for the display or sharing of general information.	Strength
P6 There is sufficient space for all staff, for work, meetings, relaxation and the storage of personal possessions.	Met

#### Comments

P2 The premises are in a good state of repair and well maintained. There is evidence that thought has been given to making the premises a very amenable environment for students and staff.  
P4 Student common areas including the garden are very comfortable and welcoming. There is a student cafe which is popular and sells healthy good value food and drinks.  
P5 Signage is clear and consistent and creates a sense of identity. Noticeboards are visually attractive, informative and up to date.

### 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.	Not 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 has 16- and 17-year-olds on adult courses or in separate groups. It also has students aged 14 or 15 in groups with 16- or 17-year-olds and at exceptional times on adult courses. A rationale is provided for these students when they are enrolled on adult courses. At the time of the inspection, there were three students aged 16 and 17, four students aged 14 to 15, one of which was studying in an adult class. At peak times approximately 150 under 18s are enrolled, and those aged under 16 are taught separately from adult courses.

S5 There are inadequate systems, including guidance for both teachers and adult students, to safeguard individuals under 16 years old from inappropriate content, activities, and interactions when they participate in adult classes.

#### 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.*

#### Management

M23 Parts of the website advertise the minimum age on general English courses as 16, but it is in fact 14. The average class size is not stated consistently on the website.

**Addressed. This is now clearly stated.**

M25 The website states that students under the age of 16 will be taught in separate classes, when this is not always the case. There are no published arrangements for the supervision or travel arrangements for under 16s.

**Addressed. It is clearly stated that students under the age of 16 may be taught in adult classes.**

**Arrangements for the supervision and travel arrangements for under 16s are published on the website.**

#### Premises and resources

P1 The premises risk assessment for the main school does not identify or address risks in relation to access and security. [See also W9.]

**Addressed. 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

W9 Gas safety certificates were not in place for some homestays. No fire risk assessments and safety checks had been undertaken for the self-catering student house.

**Addressed. All safety checks are effectively monitored and in place for homestay hosts. Appropriate safety checks are in place for the students' self-catering accommodation.**

#### 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 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 References for some homestay hosts who host under 18s are not in place. One of the homestay hosts visited did not have a current criminal records check.

**Addressed. An active homestay host list has been developed ensuring that suitability checks are effectively monitored and in place for homestay hosts.**

S6 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.

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**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.**

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## 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

Evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in S5 have been addressed.