

Organisation name	Stonyhurst Language School, Clitheroe
Inspection date	7 July 2015

BACKGROUND
Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	July 2014
Last full inspection	July 2014
Subsequent spot check (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent supplementary check (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent interim visit (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	Stonyhurst College (Boarding school, lettings and events)
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Current accreditation status and reason for spot check

Current accredited status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

Premises profile

Address of main site	Stonyhurst College, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe BB7 9PZ
Details of any additional sites in use at the time of the inspection	N/a
Details of any additional sites not in use at the time of the inspection	N/a
Sites inspected	Stonyhurst College

Student and staff profile

	At inspection	In peak week July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	54	59
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	9	9
Typical age range	10–16	10–16
Typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Spanish	No predominant
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	7	7
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	11	

INTRODUCTION
Background

Stonyhurst Language School (SLS) operates as part of Stonyhurst College, a co-educational day and boarding school founded in 1593. SLS is a residential summer school only, and runs in July in two, two-week blocks. Students can attend for two or four weeks, and a number combine two weeks of one block with one week of the other. All students are enrolled as individuals; there are no groups, and no group leaders. SLS was first accredited in 2014, and this was a routine spot check within 18 months of the original accreditation.

Preparation

The inspector contacted the course director in June to request details of the availability of key staff, and of arrival days and full-day excursions planned. No indication of the date of the spot check was given.

Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at 09.30 and left at 14.45. During this time meetings were held with the course director, the academic manager, the director of activities, the director of pastoral care, and the administrator. Relevant documentation was checked, brief visits were made to three classes, and meetings were held with a student group and with the teachers.

FINDINGS

Management

The course director, the academic manager, and the administrator were in post at the time of the original inspection; the director of activities was the deputy director last year, and the director of pastoral care was a housemistress, so there is good continuity of staffing and expertise at management level.

The points to be addressed in relation to publicity have now all been dealt with. It was noted that one student aged nine had been enrolled for four weeks, whereas the advertised minimum age is 10.

Premises and facilities

The teaching and accommodation premises were the ones in use at the time of the original inspection. A very positive innovation for the 2015 course is the availability of the year-round sixth-form common room as a social base for students. This provides a valuable and much appreciated addition to the facilities.

Resources

There was an ample stock of coursebooks and supplementary material available, so the occasional need for students to share books reported in 2014 was no longer the case.

Teaching and learning

The teaching staff were all appropriately qualified, apart from one whose TEFL certificate did not meet Scheme requirements. Her specialist background in terms of work with young learners was the basis for a rationale at the time of the original inspection, and this was then accepted in the context. The context remains the same but it would be in the interests of the organisation and the individual concerned to regularise her status.

The brief lesson segments observed all met Scheme requirements.

Welfare

Students are very well cared for, and the existence of the post of director of pastoral care is an indication of the emphasis placed on this area. Student safety is paramount and students wear wrist bands and lanyards with full emergency contact details at all times. Staff also wear lanyards and 'staff' sweat shirts.

Accommodation

The same accommodation blocks as in 2014 were in use; they were not visited on this occasion, but students reported that they were comfortable and clean.

Leisure

A very full and varied programme of activities and excursions is organised, and the director of activities is supported by a large team of activity leaders. Risk assessments were sampled and found to be comprehensive.

Care of under 18s

The safeguarding of the children on the course is of a very high standard, and all the systems and procedures in place at the time of the original inspection have been maintained, and in some cases, refined. Recruitment materials now make it clear that gaps in CVs will have to be accounted for at interview, so criterion C4 is now met. This means that *Care of under 18s* is now an area of strength.

POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED

Points to be addressed from the previous inspection report with comments (in bold) to indicate how far these have been addressed.

Management

M22 Some references, such as to “first class staff” and “the very best in British education” are difficult to quantify or demonstrate.

Addressed

M23 There are no descriptions of the course or its objectives.

Partially addressed: only outline and minimal information is provided.

M24 Information on the age range is inconsistent. It is not easy to see how the figure for the number of taught hours is arrived at.

Addressed

M25 It is not made clear in the publicity that the coursebook included in the fee may not be taken home. Riding attracts an additional charge which is not consistently dealt with in publicity, and no approximate cost is indicated.

Addressed

M28 Teachers are described as “fully qualified” and teaching as “high quality”, although most teachers are TEFL initiated or QTS rather than TEFLQ.

Addressed

Resources and environment

R7 In some cases insufficient coursebooks meant that several students were sharing one copy.

Addressed

R9 Training in the use of IWBs could be built upon to ensure optimum use of the resource.

Partially addressed: time was given over to this during the induction session, but more ongoing support is needed

Teaching and learning

T9 More attention could be paid to the implications of students studying across two courses for student satisfaction, sense of progress and continuity.

Addressed

T24 In some lessons language was less effectively graded, and lack of voice projection sometimes made it difficult for students to follow.

T25 Weaker lesson plans were sketchy and not well thought through, particularly in terms of aims and learning outcomes and in some cases timing.

T26 There was a lack of purpose and coherence in some weaker segments, with an over-reliance on un-adapted coursebook material. At times there appeared to be a lack of clarity around whether accuracy or fluency was the focus of particular stages.

T27 Some seating layouts were less helpful than others.

T28 Teachers generally relied on asking for explanations or word definitions rather than concept checking and there were missed opportunities for correction of student language.

T29 In some lessons instructions for more complex tasks were sometimes not thought through, opportunities to get students moving were missed and pace sometimes suffered.

T30 In an isolated instance there was little if any connection between the teacher and students.

Only a small sample of teaching was observed during this spot check so these points were not systematically checked.

Welfare and student services

None.

Care of under 18s

C4 Applicants are not currently informed before interview that they will be required to satisfactorily explain any gaps in their CV.

Addressed

CONCLUSIONS

The provision is still of the very high standard reported at the time of the original inspection. Facilities have been improved by the availability of a large student relaxation and social space, and by the provision of extra coursebooks. *Care of under 18s* is now an area of strength.

Almost all points to be addressed have been dealt with satisfactorily.

A new point to be addressed has been noted as a result of the recruitment of a student below the advertised minimum age.

RECOMMENDATION

The next inspection falls due in 2018; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Changes to summary statement

Strengths can be added for *Care of under 18s*.

Summary statement

Original

The British Council inspected and accredited Stonyhurst Language School in July 2014. 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/accreditation for details).

This private language school offers residential vacation courses in general English for under-18s.

Strengths were noted in the areas of staff management, quality assurance, care of students, accommodation, and leisure opportunities.

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

Revised

The British Council inspected and accredited Stonyhurst Language School in July 2014 and July 2015. 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).

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Strengths were noted in the areas of staff management, quality assurance, care of students, accommodation, leisure opportunities, and care of under 18s.

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

Points to be addressed outstanding from the previous inspections or arising from this visit

Management

M24 At the time of the spot check one student aged nine was enrolled, although publicity states that the minimum enrolment age is 10.

Teaching and learning

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T25 Weaker lesson plans were sketchy and not well thought through, particularly in terms of aims and learning outcomes and in some cases timing.

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