

Organisation name	VICI Academy Newbury
Inspection date	21 October 2025
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

### Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2029; there are no grounds for bringing this forward. However, evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in S6 have been addressed. The evidence was subsequently submitted.

### Changes to the summary statement

The need for improvement in publicity can now be removed.

### New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited VICI Language Academy, Newbury in March, April, and October 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 private language school offers courses in ESOL and general English for adults (18+) and vacation courses for under 18s in school premises and online.

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

### Updated summary inspection findings

#### Management

The provision meets the section standard. Strategic and quality management procedures are largely appropriate, although staff feedback procedures are yet to be fully implemented. Staff management procedures are mostly effective, and students receive a very high level of customer service. Publicity provides detailed information leading to realistic expectations, and the language used is appropriate.

#### Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The overall profile of the academic team is suitable, and academic management systems are efficient. Course design is based on clear principles and is mostly effective, and learner management systems are satisfactory.

#### Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. The school provides its students with very good pastoral care. Staff proactively ensure students are appropriately and sensitively supported. Students have access to a private prayer room. Accommodation for junior students is very well managed, and the leisure programme is varied and appropriate to the context.

#### Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. Policies and procedures to safeguard students under the age of 18 are generally sound. Recruitment procedures are properly followed, and safeguarding training levels of staff are excellent. Parental consent forms contain sufficient information, and risk assessments for the accommodation and activity programme are in place.

#### Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

### Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	March 2025
Last full inspection	March 2025

Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	April 2025, October 2025
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	Coaching in multiple modern foreign languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin) alongside General English.  Provision of online learning via the i.VICI platform.
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	VICI Language Academy, Windsor
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	VICI Language France – Newbury’s sister branch in France.

<b>Student and staff profile</b>	At inspection	Estimate at peak: <i>October</i>
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	20	20
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	14	14
Typical age range	25–60	25–60
Typical length of stay	4 months (1 week – YLs)	4 months (1 week – YLs)
Predominant nationalities	French, Afghan, Ukrainian	French, Afghan, Ukrainian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	3	3
Total number of managers including academic	2	2
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1	1

<b>Premises profile</b>	
Address of main site	12 West Mills Yard, Newbury, RG14 5LP.
Additional sites in use	59–60 Thames Street, Windsor, SL4 1TX
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	12 West Mills Yard, Newbury, RG14 5LP.

## **Introduction**

### **Background**

VICI Newbury was first inspected in March 2025 and, following a supplementary inspection in April 2025 to assess safeguarding systems, was awarded initial accreditation. It was agreed that a spot check would be carried out when the provider had a closed group of junior students enrolled in October 2025.

### **Preparation**

The inspector had an online meeting with the provider in advance of the visit and requested an updated action plan, as well as an updated organogram, and people to be seen form. The week of the inspection was made known to the provider, but the exact day was not disclosed.

### **Programme and persons present**

The inspection was carried out by one inspector who arrived at 9:00 and left at 16:00. Meetings were held with the owner/principal, the director of studies (DoS), the group leader, and the one teacher on the junior timetable. A focus group meeting was held with a closed group of junior students. The accommodation provided for the junior students was visited. Documents viewed included feedback forms, accommodation risk assessments, activities risk assessments, supervision policies, and parental consent forms. The one teacher on the junior timetable was observed.

## **Findings**

### **Management**

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

### **Premises and resources**

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

### **Teaching and learning**

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

### **Welfare and student services**

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

## Safeguarding under 18s

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

## Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

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

<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Met</b>
M21 All publicity and information is accurate, and gives rise to realistic expectations about the premises, location, and the extent and availability of the services and resources.	Met
M22 All publicity and information about the provider and the services it offers is in clear, accurate and accessible English.	Met
M23 Publicity gives clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on the courses.	Met
M24 Publicity includes clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on costs.	Met
M25 Publicity or other information made available before enrolment gives an accurate description of the level of care and support given to any students under 18.	Met
M26 Publicity gives an accurate description of any accommodation offered.	Met
M27 Descriptions of staff qualifications are accurate.	Met
M28 Claims to accreditation are in line with Scheme requirements.	Met
<b>Comments</b>	
Publicity comprises a website and a number of social media channels. The website is considered the main form of publicity.	
All criteria in this area are satisfactorily met.	

## Safeguarding under 18s

<b>Safeguarding under 18s</b>	<b>Met</b>
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.	Strength
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.	Not 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
<b>Comments</b>	
The provider offers residential week-long courses to closed groups of students aged 12-17. At the time of the inspection, there were 5 students enrolled.	
S2 The level of safeguarding training is very good, with both members of the safeguarding team trained to specialist level.	
S6 Guidance is in place regarding free time for junior students, but appropriate age differentiation is missing. The provider makes no provision for refusing parental consent based on their own risk assessments.	

## Action taken on points to be addressed

---

## Management

M5 The school does not have feedback procedures that include all students. No evidence was seen of feedback collation or recording of action taken in response.

**Addressed. Feedback procedures are in place, and results are collated.**

M6 No evidence was seen of the collation of staff feedback or action taken in response to it.

**Not addressed. A new staff feedback procedure is in place but has not yet been implemented.**

M9 A job description was not seen for the owner/principal, who is also the DSL.

**Addressed. A suitable job description is in place.**

M17 Emergency contact details for adult students are not obtained.

**Not addressed. Emergency contact details for adult students were not seen during the inspection.**

M23 Some of the required information on courses is missing. This includes the total number of hours taught per week and an outline of course objectives.

**Addressed. The required information has been added to course descriptions on the website.**

M25 No information on the level of care given to students under 18 is made available through publicity.

**Partially addressed. The information is contained in the parental consent form, but is not made available in publicity.**

M26 Some of the required information is missing from the description of accommodation. This includes services such as arrangements for cleaning and the supply of towels and linen.

**Addressed. The missing information has been added to the description of accommodation on the website.**

M27 Descriptions on the website of 'highly qualified native speaker teachers' did not match the profile of teachers seen during the inspection.

**Addressed. This has been amended.**

## Premises and resources

P1 Implementation of the new simulated fire drill; system testing and full alarm drills carried out by the facilities management company.

**Partially addressed. Fire drills have been carried out regularly, but the building managers have refused to carry out weekly call testing of equipment.**

## Teaching and learning

T16 There is no formal progress testing for long-term students.

**Addressed. This has now been introduced.**

## Welfare and student services

W1 Relevant elements of the emergency plan are made known to students in an appropriate way.

**Addressed. Students are now made aware of appropriate information.**

W10 Written confirmations regarding accommodation.

**Not addressed. Although this is provided to parents during a pre-visit online meeting, no written confirmations are made available.**

W11 No formal procedures for identifying issues with accommodation are currently in place. Feedback forms relating to accommodation used previously are not appropriate for private house accommodation.

**Addressed. Accommodation is now part of both initial and exit questionnaires for junior students.**

W22 The development and use of risk assessments for trips and activities.

**Addressed. Suitable risk assessments are now in place.**

## Safeguarding

S2 Relevant safeguarding training to be undertaken as planned.

**Addressed. Both the principal and the DoS have undertaken specialist safeguarding training, and all other staff have completed basic training.**

S5 Attendance rules and procedures for responding to students who may be late to class.

**Addressed. Appropriate procedures are in place.**

S6 Rules for what students may do in unsupervised periods.

**Partially addressed. Guidance is in place, but appropriate age differentiation is missing. The provider makes no provision for refusing parental consent based on their own risk assessments.**

S7 Arrangements for the supervision of students in accommodation.

**Addressed. Appropriate procedures are in place.**

## Legal and regulatory compliance

D1 The school does not have a CLA licence, and teachers are not made aware of regulatory limits to the photocopying of published materials.

**Addressed. A CLA licence is in place, and guidance is displayed for teachers.**

---

---

**Conclusions**

---

VICI Academy Newbury has made good progress towards addressing most of the points to be addressed from the previous inspection. All students, including juniors, receive excellent care and attention, and there has been a definite improvement in systems development and record keeping.

---