Inspection report

Organisation name	Westerfield College, Abberley
Inspection date	11–12 August 2026

Section standards	
Management The management of the provision operates to the benefit of the students, and in accordance with the provider's stated goals, values, and publicity.	Met
Premises and resources The premises provide students and staff with a safe, comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. A range of learning resources is available, appropriate to the age and needs of the students. Guidance on the use of these resources is provided for staff and students where needed.	Met
Teaching and learning The academic staff team has a professional profile (qualifications, experience and continuing professional development) appropriate to the context. Teachers receive sufficient guidance to ensure that they support students effectively in their learning. Courses are structured and managed to provide the maximum possible benefit to students. The teaching observed meets the requirements of the Scheme.	Met
Welfare and student services The provision meets the needs of the students for security, pastoral care, information and leisure activities. Students benefit from well-managed student services, including, where offered, out-of-class activities and suitable accommodation.	Met
Safeguarding under 18s There is appropriate provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the organisation and in any leisure activities or accommodation provided.	Met

Recommendation

We recommend accreditation with a spot check in the first 12 months, when a larger range of courses is planned to be running. Evidence must be submitted within 3 months to demonstrate that weaknesses in Welfare and Student Services (W1 and W9) have been addressed.

Summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Westerfield College in August 2026. 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 private language school offers residential courses in general English and academic subjects, academic English for under 18s, and for closed groups of adults (18+) and under 18s, and vacation courses for under 18s.

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

Introduction

Westerfield College (UK) was founded in 2021 and shares ownership with Westerfield College (Nigeria), which was formed in 2010. In Nigeria the organisation has campuses in Lagos, Abuja and Kano and operates as a sixth form college. The college took over the former Abberley Hall School in Worcester in 2025. Provisional accreditation was granted after a remote inspection in March 2025. ELT courses were planned to commence in July 2025, with a residential junior summer camp for students aged 10–17. However, the first summer camp took place at the time of this inspection for 21 students between the ages of 9 and 17. A second course was due to run in the second half of August.

The inspection took place over one and a half days. During that time the two inspectors held meetings with the CEO, the centre manager, the Director of Studies (DoS), the UK marketing and admissions manager, the marketing manager, and the activities organiser. Focus group meetings were conducted with teachers, students and group leaders (chaperones). Both inspectors visited the residential accommodation and toured the college premises.

Address of main site/head office

Westerfield College, Abberley, Worcester WR6 6DD

Description of sites visited/observed

The college is located on a 93-acre site in the Worcestershire countryside. Many of the buildings are currently unused. The college uses the main building including the large reception with seating, three offices, the dining room and kitchen, and two games rooms. The main building also includes the male and female accommodation on separate floors. In addition, the college uses two out of four classrooms in a teaching block, a large hall, a sports hall and extensive playing fields.

Course profile	Year round		Vacation only	
	Run	Seen	Run	Seen
General ELT for adults (18+)	☐	☐	☐	☐
General ELT for adults (18+) and young people (16+)	☐	☐	☐	☐
General ELT for juniors (under 18)	☒	☒	☐	☐
English for academic purposes (excludes IELTS preparation)	☒	☐	☐	☐
English for specific purposes (includes English for Executives)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Applied English/Content and language integrated learning (CLIL)	☒	☒	☐	☐
Teacher development (excludes award-bearing courses)	☐	☐	☐	☐
ESOL skills for life/for citizenship	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐

Comments

At the time of the inspection, the college was running a two-week junior course (9 to 17 year-olds) with lessons in ELT, Maths, Photography and Sports. The programme included residential accommodation and a leisure programme. The college aims to offer a wider range of courses from March 2026. These include academic English preparation and CLIL courses.

Management profile

The centre manager reports to the CEO, and the former is supported by the DoS and the marketing and admissions manager.

Accommodation profile

All students stay in on-site full board residential accommodation provided by the host institution. This currently consists of two floors which are each single sex with double and triple rooms with shared shower and toilet facilities.

Summary of inspection findings

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 stated mission statement and values. Staff management is effective, as is student administration. Publicity is largely accurate although some of the website images are not representative of the technology used in classes.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. The premises provide students and staff with a safe, comfortable and professional environment for work and relaxation. A range of learning resources is available, appropriate to the age and needs of the students. Guidance on the use of these resources is provided for staff and students where needed.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The academic staff team has a professional profile (qualifications, experience and continuing professional development) appropriate to the context. Teachers receive good

guidance to ensure that they support students effectively in their learning. Courses are structured and managed to provide benefit to students. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme.

Welfare and student services
The provision meets the section standard. There are good levels of safety and security, and pastoral care is taken seriously by the provider and all members of staff. The residential accommodation seen is appropriate and of a satisfactory standard. The leisure programme is suitable and managed appropriately.

Safeguarding under 18s
The provision meets the section standard. There is good provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18, the policy is satisfactory and effectively made known to all members of staff and other stakeholders. Recruitment procedures are effective and staff training is extensive.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance
The items sampled were satisfactory.

Evidence

Management

Strategic and quality management	Met
M1 There is a clear statement describing the goals and values of the organisation, which is made known to all staff.	Met
M2 The management has clear objectives for the future of the organisation and has realistic plans to achieve them.	Met
M3 There is a documented and clearly understood structure for the ELT operation. There are sufficient staff to manage and deliver the provision, and to ensure continuity at all times.	Met
M4 There are effective channels of communication between all involved in the ELT operation, and between the ELT operation and any wider organisation of which it is a part.	Strength
M5 The provider regularly obtains and records feedback from students on all the services offered. Feedback is circulated to relevant staff and appropriate action is taken and recorded.	Not met
M6 The provider regularly seeks and records feedback from all staff on the services offered. Appropriate action is taken and recorded.	Met
M7 The provider reviews systems, processes and practices with a view to continuing improvement. Appropriate action is taken and recorded in an annual self-evaluation.	Met
Comments	
M4 Communication works extremely well among staff, parents and group leaders through the use of a variety of channels that include walkie talkies, social messaging apps and daily briefings. M5 Formal initial feedback had not been gathered by the time of the inspection in the second week of the course.	
Staff management and development	Met
M8 The provider implements appropriate human resources policies, which are made known to staff.	Met
M9 The provider specifies the duties of all staff working with ELT students, and ensures that these are up to date.	Met
M10 There are effective procedures for the recruitment and selection of all staff.	Met
M11 There are effective induction procedures for all staff.	Met
M12 There are effective procedures for monitoring and appraising all staff, for highlighting good performance, and for handling unsatisfactory performance or conduct. These procedures are made known to all staff.	Met
M13 There are effective procedures to ensure the continuing professional development (CPD) of all staff to meet the needs of the individual, the students and the organisation.	Met
Comments	
All criteria in this sub-section are met.	

Student administration	Met

M14 Staff are helpful and courteous to students and their representatives, and provide good levels of customer service.	Strength
M15 Students or their representatives receive sufficient information and advice on their course choices before arrival and during their stay.	Met
M16 There are clear systems in place to enrol students effectively and maintain accurate information about student payment and course details. This information is readily accessible to relevant staff.	Met
M17 There are effective systems to maintain up-to-date and accessible records of local contact details for students, and their designated emergency contacts.	Met
M18 There is a clear and effective policy on student attendance and punctuality that is known to all staff and students and is applied consistently.	Met
M19 All staff and students are made aware of conditions and procedures under which a student may be asked to leave the course.	Met
M20 All students and, where appropriate, group leaders and parents/legal guardians, receive information in writing about who to see about problems and how to make a complaint.	Met
Comments	
M14 Students and group leaders provided both informal and formal positive feedback about the friendliness and helpfulness of the college staff.	
Publicity	Met
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.	Not 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.	Not 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.	Not met
M28 Claims to accreditation are in line with Scheme requirements.	Met
Comments	
Publicity consists of a website, course-specific flyers and social media apps. M21 The website includes photos that do not accurately represent the technology used and the classrooms on the campus. M23 Not all of the required easy-to-find information was in the publicity at the time of the inspection. This was amended and is no longer a point to be addressed. M27 The publicity description of the sports trainer was inaccurate. This text was subsequently amended and is no longer a point to be addressed.	

Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Met
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.	Not met
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.	Met
P5 There is adequate signage to buildings, routes, rooms and exits, and there are facilities for the display or sharing of general information.	Not met
P6 There is sufficient space for all staff, for work, meetings, relaxation and the storage of personal possessions.	Met
Comments	
P2 The grounds of the college are in an excellent state. Some of the internal areas of the college are not in a	

good state of repair and are untidy. P5 There is inadequate signage to buildings, and there are insufficient displays about the college and general course information.

Learning resources	Met
P7 There are sufficient learning resources for classroom use for the number of students enrolled, appropriate to their age and the level, length and type of courses offered.	Met
P8 There are appropriate resources for teachers, which are adequate in number, accessible, and well maintained and organised.	Not met
P9 Any educational technology inside the classroom and elsewhere is well maintained with adequate technical support. Staff receive appropriate training in using the available technology to support learning.	Met
P10 Students have access to resources for independent learning, relevant to their learning aims and expectations.	N/a
P11 There is a policy for the continuing review and development of teaching and learning resources, and evidence of its implementation.	Met
Comments	
P7 Overall, there are sufficient learning resources for classroom use for the number of students enrolled. However, some of these materials were provided by teachers and not the college. P8 There are no supplementary teaching and learning resources available to teaching staff.	

Teaching and learning

Academic staff profile	Met
T1 There is a clear recruitment and support policy for the academic team relevant to the stated course objectives and student profile.	
T2 The academic manager/academic management team has an appropriate professional profile to provide academic leadership.	
T3 The teaching team has ELT/TESOL qualifications, general level of education, experience, knowledge and skills relevant to the courses they are teaching.	
Comments	
The academic staff team has a professional profile (qualifications and experience) that is appropriate to the college's context. The recruitment and support policy is suitably devised and implemented in line with the stated course objectives and the student profile.	

Academic management	Met
T4 Teachers are matched appropriately to courses and there are effective procedures for the appropriate timetabling of students, courses and classrooms.	Met
T5 There are formalised arrangements for covering for absent teachers which are satisfactory to students and staff.	Met
T6 Where enrolment is continuous, explicit attention is paid to all aspects of academic management affected.	N/a
T7 There are effective arrangements for the academic induction of new teachers appropriate to their needs.	Met
T8 There are effective arrangements, led by an academic manager, to ensure appropriate day-to-day guidance and support for all teachers.	Strength
T9 There are effective arrangements for the observation and monitoring of teachers' performance by a TEFLQ academic manager based on clear standards known to teachers.	Met
T10 There are effective procedures to ensure the continuing professional development (CPD) of all teachers to meet the needs of the individual teachers, the students, and the organisation.	Met
Comments	
T8 The academic manager provided a very good level of daily support to the teachers, who were very happy with the guidance he gave them.	

Course design and implementation	Met
T11 The course design is comprehensive and is based on the provider's stated approach	Met

to learning or educational philosophy, and is appropriate to the learning context.	
T12 Courses include strategies which help students to develop their language skills outside the classroom and benefit linguistically from their stay in the UK.	Strength
T13 Course design is regularly reviewed in light of the different and changing needs of the students and feedback from teachers and students.	Met
T14 Written course outlines and intended learning outcomes, appropriate to the course length and type, are available to students and referred to in class.	Not met
Comments	
T12 Students are helped to develop their skills outside the classroom through preparation and follow-up lessons to excursions, the use of learning journals and subject lessons such as sports. T14 Students do not receive written course outlines.	

Learner management	Met
T15 There are effective procedures for the correct placement of students, appropriate to their level and age.	Met
T16 There are effective procedures for evaluating, monitoring and recording students' progress.	Met
T17 Students are helped to identify their learning needs and receive support to meet course objectives.	Met
T18 Where relevant, students are guided to select the examinations and examination training best suited to their needs and interests. Students wishing to progress to mainstream UK education have access to relevant information and advice.	N/a
Comments	
All relevant criteria in this sub-section are fully met.	

Classroom observation record

Number of teachers seen	3
Number of observations	6
Parts of programme(s) observed	ELT, Maths and a Sports lesson.
Comments	
None.	

Teaching: classroom observation	Met
T19 Teachers produce accurate models of spoken and written English; they provide clear explanations and relevant examples of language and usage, that are appropriate to the aims of the lesson and suitable for the students' level.	Met
T20 The content of the lessons is based on the overall course objectives and takes into account the differing students' needs and backgrounds.	Met
T21 The intended learning outcomes of lessons are made known to students, and are achieved through an appropriate sequence of activities.	Met
T22 Teaching techniques used are appropriate to the focus of the lesson, to the context, and to the needs of the group and individual learners.	Met
T23 Teachers enhance learning by effectively managing the classroom environment and teaching and learning resources.	Met
T24 Students receive and benefit from appropriate and timely feedback on their performance during the lesson.	Met
T25 Lessons include activities for teachers and students to evaluate whether learning is taking place.	Met
T26 Teachers promote a positive and inclusive learning atmosphere and students are engaged in the lesson.	Met
Comments	
T19 Teachers generally produced accurate models of spoken and written language and gave clear explanations and relevant examples of lexis. T20 The content of lessons was appropriately linked to course objectives and the excursion programme of the course. T21 Learning outcomes were generally shared with students and achieved through a coherent sequence of	

activities.
T22 In some lesson segments teacher used a good range of teaching techniques such as nomination and concept checking. In a few cases techniques were more limited, and concept checking and instruction checking were inadequate.
T23 In most lessons, learning resources including projectors were used effectively. In a few classes, boardwork was less effective.
T24 Overall, teachers provided praise and timely feedback on student oral and written performance.
T25 Student learning was generally evaluated through short lesson tasks.
T26 Teachers created positive and inclusive atmospheres through actively listening to students and using their names. Students were engaged in all lesson segments observed.

Welfare and student services

Care of students	Met
W1 There is a comprehensive plan to respond to any emergency. This plan is known to all staff, and relevant elements are known to students.	Not met
W2 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
W3 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
W4 Where relevant, students receive a 24-hour emergency contact number for the provider, in writing.	Met
W5 Students receive advice on relevant aspects of travel to and life in the UK.	Met
W6 Students have access to adequate health care provision.	Met
Comments	
W1 Although there is a critical incident plan in place, it does not address off campus activities such as excursions, and the plan is not appropriately shared with staff and other stakeholders.	

Accommodation (W7–W18 as applicable)	Met
All accommodation	
W7 Students have a comfortable living environment throughout their stay.	Met
W8 Arrangements for cleaning and laundry are satisfactory.	Met
W9 A responsible representative inspects all accommodation (for safety and suitability) before students are placed, and at least every two years after that.	Not met
W10 Students receive written confirmation of accommodation booked, giving clear and accurate information.	Met
W11 There are effective procedures for identifying and resolving any problems students have with their accommodation.	Met
W12 Accommodation providers receive written confirmation of the rules, terms and conditions applied by the provider with respect to the provision of accommodation services.	N/a
W13 Students receive meals as agreed; these offer a well-balanced diet, taking into account any reasonable dietary requirements students may have.	Strength
Comments	
W9 All accommodation in use had been inspected, but some of the required safety-related actions identified in the inspection have not been fully carried out. W13 Students' food is of a consistently high quality and was commented on very positively by students. Students with dietary requirements are accommodated very well.	

Accommodation: homestay only	
W14 Homestay hosts comply with the agreed terms and conditions for student placements.	N/a
W15 Homestay placements encourage students to use English.	N/a
W16 Hosts ensure that there is an adult available to receive students on first arrival.	N/a

Comments
Westerfield College does not offer homestay accommodation.

Accommodation: other	
W17 Students receive information about the implications of their living in private rented accommodation and advice in case of difficulties.	N/a
W18 The provider monitors any other accommodation recommended, and booking and payment arrangements are clear.	N/a
Comments	
None.	

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.	Met
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.	Strength
Comments	
W20 An inclusive programme of sports, excursions and other leisure activities is on offer, and the excursions are well supported by classroom review activities. Students and chaperones commented very positively on the appropriacy and subsequent enjoyment of the programme offered. W23 Specialist staff with appropriate experience lead the activities. Excursions are led by a specialist with support from colleagues who receive good briefings prior to each event.	

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.	Not 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.	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	
This was the first cohort of students enrolled by the provider, and it consisted of 21 students aged between nine and 17. The provider intends to focus on these age groups in future young learner programmes, but these might include a small number of young adults aged 18 and over. S1 There is a detailed safeguarding policy in place, but it does not include guidance on handling delayed suitability checks. This was addressed during the inspection and is no longer a point to be addressed.	

S2 The policy is very well communicated to all staff and other stakeholders in an appropriate manner. All staff have completed at least basic safeguarding training, and in addition to the DSL, two further members of staff are trained to specialist level.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

D1 The organisation certifies that it operates at all times in accordance with the declarations in the *Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance*.

The Accreditation Scheme requires accredited providers to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
Providers must take steps to ensure that they are aware of, and comply with, all existing and new legal requirements.
On initial application and annual renewal of accreditation, providers are required to confirm that they are complying with all applicable laws and regulations.
Inspectors will check a random sample of items during inspection, in relation to criterion D1; if they find evidence of a breach of statutory or other legal requirements, the provider will be required to submit evidence of compliance confirmed by the appropriate regulatory body.
Any breach of the law or regulations will be viewed seriously by the Scheme and may result in the withdrawal or withholding of accreditation.
Any sustained breach of the law or regulations which an accredited provider fails upon reasonable notice to remedy will result in accreditation being withdrawn.

Comments

D1 The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2025 (provisional accreditation)
Last full inspection	N/a
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	N/a
Current accreditation status	Provisional accreditation
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	In-term academic bespoke camps, revision camps, venue hire and retreats
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Sixth form colleges in Nigeria

Private sector

Date of foundation	10 January 2011
Ownership	Name of company: Westerfield College Learning and Enrichment Centre Company number: 13732961
Other accreditation/inspection	N/a

Premises profile

Details of any additional sites in use at the time of the inspection but not visited/observed	N/a
Details of any additional sites not in use at the time of the inspection	N/a

Student profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak
ELT/ESOL students (eligible courses)	At inspection	March 2027
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) 18 years and over	0	40
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) aged 16–17 years	0	0
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) aged under 16	21	140
Part-time ELT aged 18 years and over	0	0
Part-time ELT aged 16–17 years	0	0
Part-time ELT aged under 16 years	0	0
Overall total ELT/ESOL students shown above	**21**	**180**
Adult programmes: advertised minimum age	N/a	18+

Adult programmes: typical age range	N/a	18–24
Adult programmes: typical length of stay	N/a	1 to 3 terms
Adult programmes: predominant nationalities	N/a	Nigerian
Junior programmes: advertised minimum age	9	9
Junior programmes: advertised maximum age	17	17
Junior programmes: typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks
Junior programmes: predominant nationalities	Nigerian	Nigerian, British, Spanish, Italian, Turkish

Staff profile

	At inspection	Estimate at peak
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	3	6
Number teaching ELT 20 hours and over a week	0	
Number teaching ELT under 20 hours a week	3	
Number of academic managers for eligible ELT courses	1	1
Number of management (non-academic) and administrative staff working on eligible ELT courses	3	
Total number of support staff	4	

Academic manager qualifications profile

Profile at inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of academic managers
TEFLQ qualification and at least three years' full-time relevant teaching experience	1
Academic managers without TEFLQ qualification or three years' relevant experience	0
Total	1
Comments	
The centre manager and the academic manager (both TEFLQ) are not timetabled to teach. During the week of the inspection the ADoS was covering a class for an absent teacher.	

Teacher qualifications profile

Profile in week of inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of teachers
TEFLQ qualification/profile	0
TEFLI qualification	1
ATEFL registered portfolio in progress	0
Non-ELT-related qualified teacher status only (for short courses for under 18s)	2
Holding specialist qualifications only (for ESP/CLIL)	0
Alternative professional profile	0
Total	3
Comments	
None.	

Accommodation profile

Number of students in each at the time of inspection (all students on eligible courses)		
Types of accommodation	Adults	Under 18s
Arranged by provider/agency		
Homestay	0	0
Private home	0	0
Home tuition	0	0
Residential	0	21
Hotel/guesthouse	0	0
Independent self-catering e.g. flats, bedsits, student houses	0	0

Arranged by student/family/guardian		
Staying in privately rented rooms/flats	0	0
Overall totals adults/under 18s	0	21
Overall total adults + under 18s	0	

Items requiring early action
Evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in W1 and W9 have been addressed.

Report expires 31 March 2031