

Organisation name	Yorkshire College, Leeds
Inspection date	11 August 2025
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Signalled: inspect new or additional premises

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2028; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

Changes to the summary statement

No changes need to be made to the summary statement, apart from adding the date of this inspection and adding an area of strength for *Premises and facilities*.

New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Yorkshire College, Leeds in January 2024, and March and August 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 private language school offers courses in general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+).

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

A strength was noted in the area of Premises and facilities.

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

Summary inspection findings**Management**

The provision meets the section standard. Overall, the management of the provision operates to the benefit of the students, and in accordance with the provider's clear and well communicated goals, values, and publicity.

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 and professional environment for work and relaxation. A range of appropriate learning resources is available, and guidance on the use of these resources is provided for staff and students where needed. *Premises and facilities* is an area of strength.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The academic staff team has a professional profile appropriate to the context. Teachers generally receive sufficient day-to-day 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. Security and welfare are well managed, and the staff team as a whole is very committed to the care of their students. Accommodation is suitable. The leisure programme is limited but well organised.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. Overall, systems to ensure the safety of under 18s are appropriate. The safeguarding training profile of the team is very good, and the supervision of students within lessons and activities is suitable.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	January 2024
Last full inspection	January 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	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	19	27
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16
Typical age range	16–25	16–25
Typical length of stay	10 weeks	10 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, Ukrainian, Chinese	Saudi Arabian, Ukrainian, Chinese
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	3	4
Total number of managers including academic	2	2
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	2	2

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	1
Total	2
Comments	

The Director of Studies (DoS) is TEFLQ.

Teacher qualifications profile

Profile in week of inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of teachers
TEFLQ qualification/profile	3
TEFLI qualification	2
ATEFL portfolio in progress*	0
Non-ELT-related qualified teacher status only (for short courses for under 18s)*	0
Holding specialist qualifications only (for ESP/CLIL)*	0
Alternative professional profile*	0
Total	5
Comments	

These figures include the DoS, who was covering for an absent colleague on the day of the spot check, and the Deputy DoS, who was teaching a class in the week of the visit.

Premises profile	
Address of main site	Oxford Row, Oxford Place, Leeds, LS1 3AU, United Kingdom
Additional sites in u	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Oxford Row, Oxford Place, Leeds, LS1 3AU, United Kingdom

Introduction

Background

Yorkshire College (YC) opened in January 2023 and was first accredited in 2024. The students are generally based in Leeds, and the majority are of one nationality. Accommodation when needed is arranged in a local residence or in homestay. This was a spot check carried out to inspect the school's new premises, which started to be used for classes in July 2025. The inspector also focused on the outstanding points to be addressed identified in previous reports.

Preparation

The inspector received background information from the Accreditation Unit including previous inspection reports. YC were informed that a spot check would be carried out, but the exact date was not given. Before the inspection, the inspector was sent by the school requested documentation, including an updated action plan and a self-evaluation for the *Premises and resources* section.

Programme and persons present

The spot check lasted half a day. Meetings were held with the CEO/director, the DoS, the DDoS, the student services officer and the accommodation and welfare officer. The inspector also spoke to the teachers in a brief focus group meeting. Additional documentation was provided during the spot check as and when requested. The inspector conducted a brief round-up with managers at the end of his visit.

Findings

Management

The school owner continues to be well supported by the staff identified in the introduction of this report. YC had gathered and analysed written feedback about the new premises from students, administrative staff and teachers. The comments were overwhelmingly positive about the new premises, and referred to the safe environment, the excellent facilities and the central location.

Teaching and learning

Findings are reported below and, in the action taken on points to be addressed. Since the last inspection the academic roles of the DoS and the DDoS have been clarified, and appropriate changes have been made regarding aspects of course design and certification. There are still issues concerning observations and there is currently insufficient academic professional development for teachers. Neither observations nor academic staff development feature in the teacher handbook.

Premises and resources

Findings are reported in the following section.

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.	Strength
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.	Strength
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.	Met
P6 There is sufficient space for all staff, for work, meetings, relaxation and the storage of personal possessions.	Met

Comments

The new premises are located in the city centre, a nine-minute walk from the main train station. All of the rooms are on the self-contained first floor and include a reception, office rooms, a student common area, 12 classrooms, a small library, and a quiet room. There are plans to create a teachers' room in the near future.

P1 The school provides a very safe and secure environment, and all appropriate risk assessments have been thoroughly conducted. Safety arrangements are comprehensively covered in staff and student inductions, and evacuation procedures are fully understood by both groups.

P2 All of the rooms in the premises have been refurbished to a high standard and are in a very good state of repair with cleaning taking place twice daily.

P3 The classrooms have ample space for the number of students who use them (maximum 10). They all have natural light with large windows, a heater and air conditioning. Only four were being used at the time of the inspection but this number can be increased easily as there are large screens in others.

P4 Students can relax in the reception area, in classrooms, in a small library and in a common area with facilities for making drinks, a microwave and a fridge. The school was awaiting the arrival of chairs for the common area at the time of the inspection.

P6 Staff currently have sufficient space for them to work, relax and hold meetings. There are well-advanced plans for a teachers' room to be created in the near future.

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.	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.	Strength
P10 Students have access to resources for independent learning, relevant to their learning aims and expectations.	Met
P11 There is a policy for the continuing review and development of teaching and learning resources, and evidence of its implementation.	Met

Comments

P7 Students are given coursebooks from an appropriate series and teachers have access to additional physical and online resources to support this series.

P9 All classrooms have large screens and access to digital resources. Very good training and guidance is given to teachers.

Action taken on points to be addressed

Teaching and learning

T1 The role responsibilities for the current TEFLQ DoS and non-TEFLQ DDoS are not based on their qualifications. There is no structured support policy in place for the unqualified teacher.

Addressed. The roles have been clarified and the TEFLQ DoS conducts the formal observations.

T3 One teacher without an ELT qualification or relevant QTS.

Addressed. All teachers are appropriately qualified.

T11 Teaching and learning strategies are not always included in courses or made clear to teachers.

Addressed. These are now discussed with teachers included in syllabuses and schemes of work.

T16 The academic report still states a certain overall level reached by the end of the course which is not based on any clear criteria.

Addressed. Certificates and reports do not state that students have reached a specific level at the end of their course.

Conclusions

The new premises of the school clearly meet Scheme requirements and provide a very comfortable environment for both students and staff. Most of the points requiring action from the last report have been fully addressed. The next inspection falls due in 2028; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.