

Organisation name	BSC Brighton
Inspection date	5 November 2024
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

## Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. However, evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in P1 have been addressed.

## Changes to the summary statement

No changes need to be made to the summary statement.

## New summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited BSC Brighton in November 2023 and November 2024. 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 general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and for closed groups of under 18s (12+).

Strengths were noted in the area of learner management.

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

## Updated summary inspection findings

### Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

Sampling of documentation revealed an issue in relation to the *Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance* which the provider has been asked to follow up.

## Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	31 October and 1 November 2023
Last full inspection	31 October and 1 November 2023
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	4
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	0

Student and staff profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	9	50
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	12	12
Typical age range	16–35	16–25
Typical length of stay	6–12 weeks	2–6 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Kuwaiti	Spanish, Saudi Arabian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	3	4
Total number of managers including academic	1	1
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1	1

## Premises profile

Address of main site	Vantage Point, New England Road, Brighton and Hove, Brighton BN1 4GW
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	BSC Brighton, as above.

## Introduction

### Background

BSC Brighton forms part of the BSC Education group with accredited schools in Edinburgh, London, Manchester and York. The group also holds separate accreditation for Young Learners English language courses. The current Brighton centre was opened in April 2022 and accredited in November 2023. All schools within the BSC group are supported by specialists within central teams, such as sales, admissions and accommodation, finance, and people and performance.

The school is located on the seventh floor of a commercial building accessible by a lift and stairs. Facilities include a BSC office for support staff, six classrooms, a welcome hub with a reception area and office, and a kitchen area. One of the classrooms is used as a quiet room. The rest of the seventh floor is occupied by a global examinations services company.

The school provides general English lessons in the morning and the afternoon. Other courses offered but not running at the time of the inspection include examination preparation, closed groups to young learners (minimum age 12), skills for success courses, one-to-one lessons, and an English for aviation course.

The college manager, who reports to the operations manager (adults), acts as both the general and the academic manager and is supported in the centre by the student experience facilitator (SEF), as well as by central staff.

Students are accommodated in homestay and residential accommodation with a small number of students requesting hotel rooms. The school works with one accommodation agency which is registered with the British Council and two student residences which are a ten- and twenty-five-minute walk from the school premises. At the time of inspection there was one student in homestay and three students staying in the student residences.

This was a routine spot check inspection of a newly accredited provider. The inspector sampled a range of aspects of the programme.

Since the last inspection several changes have taken place. A new principal and SEF were appointed in July 2024. In addition, the teaching team is newly appointed. The school is no longer using the student house that it was using in 2023, and it has added a new university residence to its accommodation offer. In addition, the school now only works with one homestay agency, whereas previously it had worked with two.

### Preparation

The spot check was carried out by one inspector, who had not been involved in the previous inspection in 2023. The inspector contacted the centre in advance to check when key staff would be present and if there were any dates which would not be suitable. The Accreditation Unit sent the inspector relevant documents. The inspector looked at the BSC website.

### Programme and persons present

The inspection lasted a half day with the inspector arriving at 11.30 and departing at 15.45. Meetings were held with the school manager, SEF, the people and performance director (remotely) and separate focus group meetings were conducted with the teachers and the students. The inspector toured the premises and 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.

### Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

Teachers and students reported that morning classes often used photocopies from a single coursebook. School staff did not know what percentage of coursebook content their photocopying licence permitted them to copy.

## 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. Only points reviewed during this spot check are included here. Any points outstanding will be checked at the next full inspection.*

### Management

M5 The mechanisms for obtaining end-of-course surveys are inadequate, and a very small number of them had been collected before the inspection.

**Addressed. The school ensures that all students complete end-of-course feedback on their last day. In addition, leavers participate in an end-of-course focus group. Comprehensive records were seen of both forms of feedback.**

M10 There were not two references on file for BSC Brighton staff.

**Addressed. There are effective checklists and systems in place to ensure that all staff have two references on file.**

M18 (2024: M17) The emergency contact details did not always include whether or not the person spoke English.

**Addressed. The school takes note of this information for all students during induction.**

M25 (2024: M24) Publicity does not mention the approximate cost of any leisure activities not included in course fees.

**Addressed. Publicity and the school's virtual learning environment both advertise the leisure programme including the price of activities.**

M26 (2024: M25) Publicity does not make sufficiently clear the level of support and supervision given to students under the age of 18.

**Addressed. Supervision provision is clearly described in the care of under 18s section of the website.**

### Safeguarding under 18s

S4 There are members of staff with only one reference on file.

**Addressed. There are effective checklists and systems in place to ensure that all staff have two references on file.**

## Conclusions

The school has made excellent progress in addressing the points to be addressed from the previous report.