

Organisation name	English Path, Birmingham
Inspection date	8 February 2024
Current accreditation status	Accredited
Reason for spot check	Routine: newly accredited institution

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation. The next inspection falls due in 2027; there are no grounds for bringing this forward.

Changes to the summary statement

No changes need to be made to the summary statement.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	1-2 March 2023
Last full inspection	1-2 March 2023
Subsequent spot check(s) (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent supplementary check(s) (if applicable)	21 April 2023 (new premises)
Subsequent interim visit(s) (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	English Path schools in London, Leeds and Manchester
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	GBS in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds offering FE and HE programmes

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak week: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	83	130
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	16	16
Typical age range	18–35	16–35
Typical length of stay	12 weeks	4 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian, Brazilian, Colombian, Turkish	Spanish, Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian, Brazilian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	5	10
Total number of managers including academic	1	1
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	3	3

Premises profile

Address of main site	Norfolk House, 84-86 Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham B5 4EG
Additional sites in use	N/a
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Main site

Introduction
Background

This was a routine spot check carried out 12 months after the first full inspection. The inspector had also been on the first inspection and the subsequent supplementary inspection to inspect the new premises.

Preparation

The inspector was sent a list of key staff and a predicted organisation profile before the check.

Programme and persons present

The spot check took the inspector half a day. All the classes were visited very briefly, and meetings were held with the director of studies, the student services officer, and the accommodation officer. Documentation was provided during the check as requested.

Findings

Welfare and student services

Accommodation

At the time of the first inspection, homestay accommodation for adults and under 18s was provided solely by an agency registered with British Council. The school, along with all the other English Path schools, have now introduced their own homestay provision. No visits were made during the spot check. The school continues to use the registered agency as necessary. Residential accommodation can be arranged year round.

Safeguarding under 18s

At the time of this spot check there were two students under 18. One was placed in a homestay arranged by the school, and the other was staying with family.

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.

Management

M22 Publicity contains some potentially misleading claims and descriptions; for example, facilities are described as "unparalleled", and there is a guarantee that students will reach their goals.

Addressed. These claims have been removed.

M28 Publicity makes reference to a highly qualified academic team, when this is not true of the whole team at all times.

Addressed. This claim has been removed.

Teaching and learning

T8 Practical guidance for teachers on dealing with continuous enrolment is insufficiently explicit.

Addressed. Teachers are now given thorough and useful guidance in ways to deal with continuous enrolment.

T11 There is no documented course structure for elective programmes.

Addressed. The structure of the various electives courses are clearly described in writing for teachers' guidance.

T13 No course outlines are available for elective programmes.

Addressed. Course outlines for the electives are available to students.

Conclusions

All points arising from the previous inspection have been addressed.

The school continues to be very well managed, and the premises and resources are entirely satisfactory as is the teaching and learning, pastoral care, leisure provision and safeguarding under 18s. The review and development of the systems, processes and practices is ongoing and includes a new customer services standard and various organogram and job role changes and additions. Job descriptions have been updated and relevant professional development plans put in place.

Satisfactory policies and procedures are in place for the new homestay provision, including appropriate safeguarding measures. Support is provided by head office and practices are shared between all the schools. Feedback indicated a good level of satisfaction with the provision. The school continues to use the registered agency as necessary.

Action plan

N/a
