

Organisation name	Preston Academy of English
Inspection date	25 January 2023
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 2024; 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.

**New summary statement**

The British Council inspected and accredited Preston Academy of English in October 2019 and January 2023. 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+).

Strengths were noted in the areas of strategic and quality management, staff management, student administration, and teaching.

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

**Updated summary inspection findings**

None.

**Organisation profile**

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2014
Last full inspection	2019
Subsequent spot check(s) (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent supplementary check(s) (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent interim visit(s) (if applicable)	N/a
Other related non-accredited activities (in brief) at this centre	External test centre
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak week: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	22	25
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	18	18
Typical age range	22–26	22–26
Typical length of stay	6 months	8 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Saudi Arabian	Saudi Arabian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	3	3

Total number of managers including academic	1	1
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	2	2
<b>Premises profile</b>		
Address of main site	93 Lancaster Road, Preston PR1 2QJ	
Additional sites in use	N/a	
Additional sites not in use	N/a	
Sites inspected	Main site.	

## Introduction

### Background

Preston Academy of English (PAE) last underwent a full inspection in 2019. In April 2020, PAE moved to new premises. The school was informed that a signalled spot check would take place in the first two months of 2023 with a focus on the premises.

### Preparation

The spot check inspector was sent relevant documents by the Accreditation Unit and looked at the school's website. The inspector contacted the school in mid-December 2022 and informed the principal that the spot check would take place in January/February 2023 but that the exact date of the visit would not be communicated. The inspector also asked for a number of documents including a site plan and organogram. The school also provided an indication of courses likely to be taking place at the time of the inspection as well as any planned staff absences.

### Programme and persons present

In the week of the spot check, there were two teachers working on General English and IELTS preparation courses. The inspector arrived at the school's main building at 12.00 and left at 16.15. Meetings were held with the principal and there was a focus group with a group of teachers and another with students. The inspector asked to see a number of documents, including premises risk assessments and staff files, which were provided in paper form or electronically. A tour of the premises was conducted. No teaching was observed.

## Findings

### 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.

### Premises and resources

Findings are reported in the following section.

### 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.

### Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

## Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Met
P1 Premises, including any external areas, are in a good state of repair, cleanliness and decoration, and provide a comfortable environment for students and staff.	Met
P2 Classrooms and other learning areas provide a suitable study environment.	Not met
P3 Students have adequate room and suitable facilities for relaxation and the consumption of food.	Met
P4 Free drinking water is available. A choice of appropriate food at affordable prices is available to students on site, if not available locally.	Met

P5 There is adequate signage to buildings, routes, rooms and exits, and there are facilities for the display of general information.	Met
P6 There is sufficient space for all staff, for meetings, relaxation and the storage of personal possessions, and for teachers to carry out their preparation and marking.	Not met

### Comments

P2 Although classrooms are big enough for the current size of classes and benefit from natural light, both students and staff commented on the insufficiency of the heating in winter and the lack of ventilation in summer.  
P6 There is nowhere for staff to securely store personal possessions.

Learning resources	Met
P7 There are sufficient learning resources 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.	N/a
P10 Any facilities provided for additional or independent learning are appropriately equipped and organised.	N/a
P11 Students receive guidance on the use of any resources provided for independent learning.	N/a
P12 There is a policy for the continuing review and development of teaching and learning resources, and evidence of its implementation.	Met

### Comments

All relevant criteria in this subsection are fully met.

### Action taken on points to be addressed

#### Welfare and student services

W1 The school was unable to provide evidence of a fire risk assessment and up-to-date Gas Safe certificate for the premises.

**Addressed. A satisfactory fire risk assessment was seen for the new premises. There are no gas appliances at the new site.**

W2 The school's major incident policy does not make any reference to students in accommodation nor times when students are off site.

**Addressed. The updated major incident plan is comprehensive and includes reference to students in accommodation as well as off-site scenarios.**

#### Teaching and learning

T13 Written course outlines and intended learning outcomes are not made available to students.

**Addressed. Written course outlines complete with intended learning outcomes are provided during the enrolment process.**

### Conclusions

The new school premises generally provide a satisfactory learning environment for students although heating and ventilation systems are currently insufficient. The school has fully addressed all outstanding points to be addressed from the previous report.