

Organisation name	Sidmouth International School
Inspection date	14–15 June 2022

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 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 continued accreditation. However, evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in M18 and S4 have been addressed. The required evidence was subsequently submitted.

Summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Sidmouth International School in June 2022. 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 was a compliance-only inspection during which the inspectors focused only on whether inspection criteria were met or not met. Inspectors did not evaluate the extent to which requirements were exceeded and no strengths were awarded. No new summary statement has been issued; please refer to the last inspection report for any areas of strength previously awarded.

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

Introduction

Sidmouth International School (SIS) is a family-run school located in Sidmouth, Devon. The school was founded in 1976. The school has a core staff team that works year-round, and staff who work in the summer, many of whom return each year.

Since the last inspection, a general manager has been appointed and the two directors of the school have taken more of a background role. The previous director of studies was made redundant, and the previous assistant director of studies was appointed as academic manager.

This compliance-only inspection took the equivalent of two days and was conducted remotely. Meetings were held with the general manager, academic manager, accommodation and welfare officer, safeguarding and compliance officer and the social activities organiser. A focus group meeting was held with teachers and separate meetings were held with students aged under 18s and those over 18. All teachers timetabled to teach during the inspection were observed. The inspection included a virtual tour of the main school premises. Students and staff were also asked to comment on the state of the premises. One inspector carried out remote visits of three homestays and spoke to the hosts.

Address of main site/head office

May Cottage, May Terrace, Sidmouth EX10 8EN

Description of sites visited/observed

The school operates from four different premises, all within a five-minute walk of each other and all in the centre of Sidmouth. Each is used by a different age group: May Cottage for adults, Heydons Hall for young learners (8–13), New School for teenagers (14–17) and Victoria House for young adults (16–18). In addition, another building, The Old Exchange, provides recreational space for the teenagers and young adults, while Sidmouth Rugby Club (which is adjacent to Heydons Hall) offers young learners both indoor and outdoor space for breaks and lunchtime. Adults use the lounge and patio at May Cottage. In the garden space between May Cottage and Victoria House there is a meeting/conference room and a teachers' room. In all, there are 23 classrooms spread over the four sites. The general reception, as well as office space for the administrative and academic staff, is located in May Cottage, which is, in effect the 'Head Office'.

Course profile	Year round		Vacation only	
	Run	Seen	Run	Seen
General ELT for adults (18+)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General ELT for adults (18+) and young people (16+)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General ELT for juniors (under 18)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
English for academic purposes (excludes IELTS preparation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
English for specific purposes (includes English for Executives)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher development (excludes award-bearing courses)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ESOL skills for life/for citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments

The school runs year-round general and intensive English courses for adults of 15 or 21 hours of English, and for under 18s of 21 hours of English. The school also runs examination preparation courses of 21 hours a week, one-to-one classes (which can be added to the general English course), business English courses, initial teacher training and teacher development courses. English for mature students (50+) courses of 15 hours of English plus a social and leisure programme are offered twice a year.

During the summer months, there are also vacation courses for under 18s in four different age groups: juniors, aged 8–11, tweens, aged 12–13, teenagers, aged 14–17 and young adults, aged 16–18. Adult classes are for students aged 18+. Students aged 16–17 can choose whether to join a teenager or young adult course. Vacation courses are also offered at Easter.

The majority of the students (approximately 80 per cent), both year round and in the summer, are under 18.

Management profile

The general manager has overall responsibility for all aspects of the day-to-day running of the school and reports to the owner and the director. The academic manager, who manages the teachers, the transport and social activities manager, safeguarding and compliance manager and the accommodation and welfare officer all report to the general manager.

Accommodation profile

Students are housed in homestays, all of which have a direct relationship with the school; no agencies are used. If requested to do so, the school will point students towards alternative accommodation such as hotels and holiday rentals, some of which it recommends. At the time of the inspection, there were 25 students in homestays, five of them adults, and two adults had made their own arrangements.

Summary of inspection findings

Management

The provision meets the section standard. The management of the provision operates to the benefit of students and staff, and in accordance with the provider's stated goals, values, and publicity. Strategic and quality management is good with a clear structure, effective channels of communication and appropriate quality review mechanisms. The management structures in place provide a sound basis for the employment, management and support of teaching staff. Student administration is carried out efficiently and effectively. Publicity is accurate and gives rise to realistic expectations.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. The school premises are in very good condition. Classrooms provide a comfortable learning environment and students, and staff have sufficient space to both work and relax. The building has clear signage and information available for students. There is a good range of teaching and learning resources, which is reviewed and updated.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The academic team has an appropriate range of qualifications and experience. Guidance and support for teachers is very good. Course design has a clear rationale and has been developed to meet students' needs. There are effective systems in place to monitor and support students' learning. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. The needs of students for security, pastoral care and information are well met. The management of the accommodation systems works to the benefit of students and the quality of the accommodation is more than satisfactory. The leisure activities are varied and closely tailored to the needs and interests of the students; leisure and sports risk assessments are thorough and dynamic.

Safeguarding under 18s

The provision meets the section standard. There is good provision for the safeguarding of students under the age of 18 within the school and in the leisure programme and accommodation provided. All safeguarding staff have had, or are in the process of acquiring, the appropriate level of training and other staff in the school and homestay hosts have had basic awareness training. Systems for obtaining information about prospective homestay hosts' suitability to work with under 18s through references are not effective. All students under 18 are required to provide information on an emergency contact.

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.	Met
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.	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

There is a clear statement describing the organisation's strategic mission and vision, which is made known to staff and students through the website, handbooks and noticeboards. The general manager has a plan which states the objectives for the organisation. The structure of the operation is clear, documented and well understood by all staff. Communication is effective and appropriate through formal minuted meetings and emails, and more informal and frequent meetings and conversations. The provider collects feedback from students and staff periodically and takes action accordingly, ensuring that records are kept up to date. A detailed self-evaluation document is in place and up to date.

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 regularly reviews these.	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, 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 of all staff to meet the needs of the individual, the students and the organisation.	Met

Comments

Human resources policies and procedures are comprehensive, periodically reviewed and made known to staff through induction, handbooks and contracts of employment. Job descriptions are in place for all members of staff and are reviewed on an annual basis. Recruitment procedures are in place, although at the time of inspection, a small number of Level six qualifications had not been verified. Induction procedures are thorough and effective for all staff. An appraisal policy and procedures are in place, although the full appraisal schedule has not yet been reinstated since 2019. All staff are engaged with continuing professional development, and a range of opportunities is made available for their professional learning.

Student administration	Met
M14 Staff are helpful and courteous to students and their representatives, and provide satisfactory levels of customer service.	Met
M15 Students or their representatives receive sufficient information and advice on their course choices before arrival and during their stay.	Met
M16 Staff carry out enrolment, cancellation and refund procedures efficiently, fairly, and with appropriate sensitivity.	Met
M17 There are effective systems in place to maintain accurate and up-to-date records of student enrolment, payment and course details. These records are accessible at all times to authorised staff.	Met
M18 There are effective systems to maintain up-to-date and accessible records of local contact details for students, and their designated emergency contacts.	Not met

M19 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
M20 All staff and students are made aware of conditions and procedures under which a student may be asked to leave the course.	Met
M21 All students and, where appropriate, group leaders and parents/legal guardians, receive information in writing about how to make a complaint.	Met

Comments

Students commented very positively about the level of support and courtesy from administrative staff including pre-arrival information and advice. Student feedback in this area is closely monitored by the school. Enrolments, cancellations and refunds are carried out effectively. The school has good systems in place to record student information. Emergency contact details for direct bookings are stored and accessible, but there are not clear procedures for situations where agents hold student contact details. Absence and lateness are effectively recorded and followed up and records are kept. Handbooks and noticeboards clearly state the conditions and procedures under which a student may be asked to leave the course. An appropriate complaints procedure is in place.

Publicity	Met
M22 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.	Met
M23 All publicity and information about the provider and the services it offers is in clear, accurate and accessible English.	Met
M24 Publicity gives clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on the courses.	Met
M25 Publicity includes clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on costs.	Met
M26 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
M27 Publicity gives an accurate description of any accommodation offered.	Met
M28 Descriptions of staff qualifications are accurate.	Met
M29 Claims to accreditation are in line with Scheme requirements.	Met

Comments

The website is the main medium of publicity. It includes course information sheets, and a brochure which can also be sent to students when making enquiries. The school also has a social media presence.

Publicity is accurate, up to date and gives rise to realistic expectations. All publicity is accurate and is mostly written in accessible English. Course information is accurate and presented clearly. Costs are clearly stated. There is accurate information about the supervision and care of students under 18. The description of accommodation and of staff qualifications are both accurate, and claims to accreditation meet Scheme requirements.

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.	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.	Met

Comments

A virtual tour of the premises showed that the school buildings are in a very good state of repair and decoration. Students confirmed that the school is clean and provides a comfortable learning environment. Classrooms are suitable, and the common rooms and outdoor areas provide students with spaces for relaxation. Drinking water is

available to students. There is good signage of rooms and exits as well as a number of student noticeboards displaying useful information about the school and local area. Space for staff to work, meet and relax is sufficient.

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

Comments

There is a very good range of learning resources for both students and teachers. Teachers spoke very positively about the resources available to them. Limited technology is available and technical support ensures that it is reliable. The school has a well-organised self-access room stocked with appropriate resources. Some teachers take their students to the self-access room and offer them guidance on how to use the resources, although not all. There are effective systems in place for the review and development of resources.

Teaching and learning

Academic staff profile	Met
T1 All academic staff have a level of education normally represented by a Level 6 qualification on the Ofqual register of regulated qualifications.	Met
T2 The teaching team has ELT/TESOL qualifications relevant to the courses they are teaching.	Met
T3 The teaching team has a range of experience, knowledge and skills appropriate to the courses offered and the needs of the learners.	Met
T4 The academic manager/academic management team has an appropriate professional profile to provide academic leadership.	Met

Comments

All academic staff have a suitable level of education and have relevant teaching qualifications for the courses that they are teaching. The teaching team has a good range of knowledge, skills and experience. The academic manager is TEFLQ and has relevant teaching and management experience.

Academic management	Met
T5 Teachers are matched appropriately to courses.	Met
T6 There are effective procedures for the appropriate timetabling of students, teachers, courses and classrooms.	Met
T7 There are formalised arrangements, satisfactory to students and staff, for covering for absent teachers.	Met
T8 Where enrolment is continuous, explicit attention is paid to all aspects of academic management affected.	Met
T9 There are effective arrangements, led by an academic manager, to ensure appropriate day-to-day guidance and support for all teachers.	Met
T10 There are effective arrangements for the observation and monitoring of teachers' performance by a TEFLQ academic manager.	Met

Comments

Teachers are matched appropriately to courses and are supported if they are transitioning to courses where they have less experience. The deployment and timetabling of students, teachers and courses is well organised and planned, but also responsive to changing student numbers and levels. The school has good arrangements in place to provide cover for absent teachers. Courses are designed taking continuous enrolment into account, and teachers receive good guidance in this area. Teachers commented on the quality and availability of support from the academic manager and their peers, including informal day-to-day support, workshops and sharing sessions. Observations are carried out although the full observation schedule has not yet been reinstated since 2019.

Course design and implementation	Met
T11 Course design is based on stated principles. There is a coherent and appropriate course structure described in writing for teachers' guidance.	Met
T12 Course design is regularly reviewed in light of the different and changing needs of students and feedback from teachers and students.	Met
T13 Written course outlines and intended learning outcomes, appropriate to the course length and type, are available to students.	Met
T14 Any activities additional to English classes, and which form part of the language curriculum, encourage the acquisition of language and the development of relevant language skills.	Met
T15 Courses include study and learning strategies that support independent learning and enable students to benefit from their programmes and continue their learning after the course.	Met
T16 Courses include strategies which help students to develop their language skills outside the classroom and benefit linguistically from their stay in the UK.	Met

Comments

Course design has a clear rationale and structure and is focused on the needs of students. It is effectively communicated to students and teachers. Courses are reviewed periodically and on an ongoing basis according to student and teacher input. There are clearly written course outlines which are made available to students, as well as weekly planners which are given to them, ensuring that students are very familiar with their course framework and content. Teachers are encouraged to make their classes creative and take them out of the classroom when possible. Study skills and learning strategies are integrated into all courses, and into displays and tips posted on noticeboards.

Learner management	Met
T17 There are effective procedures for the correct placement of students, appropriate to their level and age.	Met
T18 There are effective procedures for evaluating, monitoring and recording students' progress.	Met
T19 Students are provided with learning support and enabled to change courses or classes where necessary.	Met
T20 Where relevant, students are guided to select the examinations and examination training best suited to their needs and interests.	Met
T21 Academic reports are made available to students on request and, in the case of under 18s, to their parents/guardians.	Met
T22 Students wishing to progress to mainstream UK education have access to relevant information and advice.	Met

Comments

Experienced teachers manage the placement of students and there are procedures in place appropriate to student age and level. Assessment is integrated into courses including opportunities for students to self-assess their progress and to identify where they might need additional support from their teachers. In general students do not require advice regarding examinations or UK mainstream education, although it is available from the DoS and general manager. All junior students receive an academic report at the end of their course, and adults can receive one on request.

Classroom observation record

Number of teachers seen	7
Number of observations	7
Parts of programme(s) observed	General English for adults and under 18s

Comments

None.

Teaching: classroom observation	Met
T23 Teachers demonstrate sound knowledge and awareness of the use of English and the linguistic systems underlying it, and provide appropriate models of both spoken and written English.	Met
T24 The content of the lessons shows that the course objectives, the learning needs and cultural backgrounds of the students have been taken into account.	Met
T25 Lessons lead to relevant learning outcomes, made known to students and achieved through a coherent sequence of activities.	Met
T26 Teaching techniques are appropriate to the focus of the lesson and to the needs of the group and individual learners.	Met
T27 Teachers promote learning by the effective management of the classroom environment and resources.	Met
T28 Students receive appropriate and timely feedback on their performance during the lesson.	Met
T29 Lessons include activities to evaluate whether learning is taking place.	Met
T30 Teachers demonstrate the ability to engage students and create a positive learning atmosphere.	Met

Comments

T23 Spoken and written language was modelled accurately. Examples and explanations were relevant and clear.
T24 Lesson plans had a strong focus on communication and developing students' confidence. Student profiles identified learning needs, styles and cultural backgrounds, and objectives were clearly stated.
T25 Aims and outcomes were relevant, student focused and usually shared with students. There were good examples of the progress of the lesson from the familiar to the unfamiliar.
T26 In the majority of classes, there was evidence of some good techniques, including elicitation, a variety of questioning techniques and the nomination of students.
T27 Instructions were clear. Materials were used creatively and supported learning rather than dominating it. There was effective grouping and movement of students in the classroom.
T28 Error correction was consistent, timely, useful and in most cases was integral to the lesson.
T29 Teachers used short tasks and ensured that they checked students' understanding before moving to the next stage of the lesson. Lesson plans included review and recap activities.
T30 There was a warm, friendly, lively learning environment in all classes. Teachers clearly knew their students' needs were able to motivate them.

Classroom observation summary

The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme and ranged from very good to satisfactory against the criteria with the majority being good. Teachers had appropriate knowledge and awareness of the language, and modelled it appropriately for students. Lessons consistently corresponded to the needs of the learners, and learning outcomes were clearly expressed. Resources were well used, and students were given effective feedback. Teachers were skilled at monitoring and evaluating student understanding. Teachers demonstrated a very good understanding of their students, and the learning atmosphere was positive and engaging.

Welfare and student services

Care of students	Met
W1 Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.	Met
W2 There is a comprehensive plan to respond to any emergency. This plan is known to all staff, and relevant elements are known to students.	Met
W3 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
W4 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

W5 Where relevant, students receive a 24-hour emergency contact number for the provider, in writing.	Met
W6 Students receive in advance information on the most appropriate forms of transport between the point of entry to the UK and the provider or accommodation, including approximate costs.	Met
W7 Students receive advice on relevant aspects of life in the UK.	Met
W8 Students have access to adequate health care provision.	Met

Comments

Safety and security are well ensured by a variety of measures. These include clear safety information in all areas, fire drills and comprehensive provision of first aiders. Risk assessments are in place. There is a full crisis response plan. At the time of the inspection no alternative contacts were identified in the plan in case the named key responders were unavailable; two names were added during the inspection. A range of measures is undertaken to make students aware of pastoral care. A 24-hour emergency number is communicated to students; students in the focus group were able to show quickly that they had it at hand. Information about welfare provision is included in the post-arrival induction and in the student handbook which also includes very full and pertinent information about life in the UK; it also advises students to take out health insurance and gives advice about accessing NHS services.

Accommodation (W9–W22 as applicable)	Met
<i>All accommodation</i>	
W9 Students have a comfortable living environment throughout their stay.	Met
W10 Arrangements for cleaning and laundry are satisfactory.	Met
W11 A responsible representative inspects all accommodation (for safety and suitability) before students are placed, and at least every two years after that.	Met
W12 Students receive written confirmation of accommodation booked, giving clear and accurate information.	Met
W13 There are effective procedures for identifying and resolving any problems students have with their accommodation.	Met
W14 Accommodation providers receive written confirmation of the rules, terms and conditions applied by the provider with respect to the provision of accommodation services.	Met
W15 Students receive meals as agreed; these offer a well-balanced diet, taking into account any reasonable dietary requirements students may have.	Met

Comments

At the time of the inspection, there were five adults and 20 under 18s in homestay and two adults had made their own arrangements. Homestays are visited at least once every two years. Safety provisions such as gas certificates and fire risk assessments are confirmed annually. Three homestays were visited virtually. The facilities and arrangements seen and described are more than adequate and communication with and, if necessary, support from the school are very good.

<i>Accommodation: homestay only</i>	
W16 Homestay hosts accommodate no more than four students at one time.	Met
W17 Homestay hosts do not accommodate more than one student with the same language, unless the students, their agents, parents or legal guardians specifically request this in writing.	Met
W18 No more than two students share the same bedroom, unless the students, their agents, parents or legal guardians specifically request this in writing.	Met
W19 English is the language of communication within the homestay home.	Met
W20 Hosts ensure that there is an adult available to receive students on first arrival.	Met

Comments

All criteria in this subsection are fully met.

<i>Accommodation: other</i>	
W21 Students receive information about the implications of their living in private rented accommodation and advice in case of difficulties.	N/a
W22 The provider monitors any other accommodation recommended, and booking and payment arrangements are clear.	Not met

Comments

W22 The school recommends a number of accommodation alternatives to homestay but these are not routinely monitored.

Leisure opportunities

W23 Students have appropriate information about and access to social, cultural and sporting events and activities which enhance their experience of studying in the UK.

W24 The content of any leisure programme is appropriate to the age and interests of the students.

W25 Any leisure programmes are well organised and sufficiently resourced.

W26 There are effective systems to ensure the health and safety of students on all on-site and off-site activities.

W27 Staff supervising sporting and leisure activities on or off-site have appropriate experience and training.

Comments

The school provides a number of leisure programmes differentiating not just between under 18s and adults but also between the various categories of under 18. The content of these is highly appropriate for the age group in question. Programmes are very well organised and resourced. There are detailed risk assessments for all activities; these are constantly updated.

Safeguarding under 18s**Safeguarding under 18s**

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.

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.

S3 The provider has written parental/guardian consent reflecting the level of care and support given to students under 18, including medical consent.

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.

S5 There are suitable arrangements for the supervision and safety of students during scheduled lessons and activities.

S6 There are suitable arrangements for the supervision and safety of students outside the scheduled programme.

S7 There are suitable arrangements for the accommodation of students.

S8 There are suitable arrangements to ensure contact between the provider and parents, legal guardians or their nominated representatives concerning the welfare of students.

Comments

The school offers courses for young learners (juniors 8–11 and tweens 11–13), Teens (14–17) and young adults (16–18). Young learner courses are delivered at Easter and during the summer. The school has a very comprehensive safeguarding policy with two designated safeguarding leads (DSL) and three designated safeguarding persons. One of the latter is scheduled for specialist training and will then become the third DSL. All staff are suitably trained, with regular updating. The recruitment policy states that reference requests for applicants include a request for information about the applicants' suitability to work with under 18s. Most do, but this request is not included on the reference proforma used for homestay and administrative staff applications and this information is therefore missing from existing homestay references. All staff and homestay hosts are DBS checked and certificates for the former are renewed every three years or included in the update scheme, and the requirement that group leaders from overseas should be certificated either by the police or by their agency is met. For applicants resident in Devon, the school checks their background through the county's Child Protection Unit. The parental consent form provides good information on the level of supervision for under 18s both on and off the premises. It also includes necessary contact details and asks about the contact's level of English.

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	1987
Last full inspection	August 2017
Subsequent spot check (if applicable)	November 2019
Subsequent supplementary check (if applicable)	N/a
Subsequent interim visit (if applicable)	N/a
Current accreditation status	Accredited
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

Private sector

Date of foundation	1976
Ownership	Name of company: Turngiant Ltd T/A Sidmouth International School Company number: 2035395
Other accreditation/inspection	N/a

Premises profile

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

Student profile

Student profile	At inspection	In peak week: July (organisation's estimate)
	At inspection	In peak week
ELT/ESOL students (eligible courses)		
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) 18 years and over	7	9
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) aged 16–17 years	6	29
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) aged under 16	14	57
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	27	95
Junior programmes: advertised minimum age	8	8

Junior programmes: advertised maximum age	8	8
Junior programmes: predominant nationalities	Italian	Italian
Adult programmes: advertised minimum age	16	16
Adult programmes: typical age range	16–55	16–55
Adult programmes: typical length of stay	1–2 weeks	1–2 weeks
Adult programmes: predominant nationalities	German, Spanish, Italian	German, Spanish, Italian

Staff profile	At inspection	In peak week (organisation's estimate)
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	7	15
Number teaching ELT 20 hours and over a week	3	
Number teaching ELT under 19 hours a week	4	
Number of academic managers for eligible ELT courses	1	1
Number of management (non-academic) and administrative staff working on eligible ELT courses	4	
Total number of support staff	9	

Academic manager qualifications profile

Profile at inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of academic managers
TEFLQ qualification	1
Academic managers without TEFLQ qualification or three years relevant experience	0
Total	1
Comments	
None.	

Teacher qualifications profile

Profile in week of inspection	
Professional qualifications	Number of teachers
TEFLQ qualification	2
TEFLI qualification	4
Holding specialist qualifications only (specify)	0
Qualified teacher status only (QTS)	1
Teachers without appropriate ELT/TESOL qualification	0
Total	7
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
<i>Arranged by provider/agency</i>		
Homestay	5	20
Private home	N/a	N/a
Home tuition	N/a	N/a
Residential	N/a	N/a
Hotel/guesthouse	N/a	N/a
Independent self-catering e.g. flats, bedsits, student houses	2	0
<i>Arranged by student/family/guardian</i>		
Staying with own family	N/a	N/a

Staying in privately rented rooms/flats	N/a	N/a
Overall totals adults/under 18s	7	20
Overall total adults + under 18s	27	