

Organisation name	Spinnaker School of English, Portsmouth
Inspection date	25–26 March and 19 April 2024

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 safe, 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.	N/a

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation.

Summary statement

The British Council inspected and accredited Spinnaker School of English, Portsmouth in March and April 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 for details).

This private language school offers courses in general English for adults (18+).

The inspection report noted a need for improvement in the area of strategic and quality management.

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

Introduction

Spinnaker School of English was founded in 2007 and first inspected in 2008. Its last full inspection was in 2017, and interim inspections were carried out in December 2019 and September 2021.

The school occupies two floors above a convenience store next to Portsmouth and Southsea train station. Since the last inspection, the school has faced challenges in recruiting students due to the global pandemic. As a result, the school's owner diversified the business offering educational products and services overseas outside the scope of the accreditation. School staff have roles within these broader educational initiatives as well as their school roles. To reflect these changes, the school's holding company changed in February 2024 to 123 Global Education Ltd. The company remains under the same owner. In addition, since the last inspection, the school has stopped offering accommodation, classes for under 18s and a leisure programme.

This was a two-part inspection. The first part took place in March 2024 and was carried out by two inspectors over one day and a part day. All aspects of provision except teaching were evaluated. Meetings were held with the director of studies, managing director, general manager and one teacher who was not teaching during the week of the inspection. The second part of the inspection took place in April 2024 with one inspector observing a class, meeting management and one teacher, and holding a focus group with students, and the other inspector observing one class remotely.

Address of main site/head office

2 Isambard Brunel Road, Portsmouth PO1 2DU

Description of sites visited/observed.

The school's entrance is on street level and leads immediately to a staircase to the first floor. On the first floor there are four classrooms, a reception, a kitchen with a hot drinks machine, an administration office, a prayer room, a student relaxation room with a table-football machine, a small library of readers and DVDs, and toilets. On the second floor there are three classrooms, three offices, a teachers' room, a small relaxation area, a kitchen and toilets.

Course profile	Year	round	Vacatio	on only
	Run	Seen	Run	Seen
General ELT for adults (18+)	\boxtimes	\boxtimes		
General ELT for adults (18+) and young people (16+)				
General ELT for juniors (under 18)				
English for academic purposes (excludes IELTS preparation)				
English for specific purposes (includes English for Executives)				
Content and language integrated learning (CLIL)				
Teacher development (excludes award-bearing courses)				
ESOL skills for life/for citizenship				
Other				

Comments

General English, Language Skills, IELTS and one-to-one classes are the main courses that are offered year round, as well as courses for closed groups of students. All courses are for students aged 18 and over. Students can study for up to 25 hours per week. Lessons take place in the mornings and afternoons. There are no classes on Friday afternoons. The students seen in April 2024 were the first enrolments since January 2020.

Management profile

Strategic management of the school is overseen by a team of three senior managers led by the owner who is the managing director. Other members of the senior management team are the general manager and director of studies.

Accommodation profile

No accommodation is offered.

Summary of inspection findings

Management

Overall, the provision meets the section standard. The management of the provision operates to the benefit of the students, although the provider's goals, values and strategy are not clearly documented. The structure of the organisation is well established, although communication is not documented or recorded. Publicity is accurate and gives rise to realistic expectations. Student administration is mostly carried out effectively. There is a need for improvement in *Strategic and quality management*.

Premises and resources

Overall, the provision meets the section standard. The premises provide students and staff with a comfortable, pleasant and professional environment for work and relaxation. However, safety and security systems are not fully operational. A range of learning resources is available to students and teachers, appropriate to the course profile and needs of the students.

Teaching and learning

The provision meets the section standard. The academic staff team has a professional profile which matches the context. Course design is adequate and learner management is effective. Good support structures are in place to ensure that teachers are supported and that learning is managed appropriately to meet the demands of the courses and needs of the students. The teaching observed met the requirements of the Scheme.

Welfare and student services

The provision meets the section standard. Accommodation and a leisure programme are not offered and under 18s are not accepted, but care of students is well assured. Information about travel to and life in the UK, however, is not routinely made available.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

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

Evidence

Management

Strategic and quality management	Need for improvement
M1 There is a clear statement describing the goals and values of the organisation, which is made known to all staff.	Not met
M2 The management has clear objectives for the future of the organisation and has realistic plans to achieve them.	Not 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.	Not 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.	Not 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

M1 There is no explicit statement describing the mission and values of the school shared with staff.

M2 There is no evidence of objectives and plans for the future of the organisation.

M4 There is inadequate documented evidence of communication between those involved in the ELT operation, and with the wider organisation.

M6 While there is a staff feedback form, there is no evidence of staff feedback being collected or of action being taken in response to it.

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 ensures that these are up to date.	Met
M10 There are effective procedures for the recruitment and selection of all staff.	Not met
M11 There are effective induction procedures for all staff.	Met
M12 There are effective procedures for monitoring and appraising all staff, for highlighting good performance, and for handling unsatisfactory performance or conduct. These procedures are made known to all staff.	Not met
M13 There are effective procedures to ensure the continuing professional development (CPD) of all staff to meet the needs of the individual, the students and the organisation.	Met

Comments

M10 Some staff files did not include documents demonstrating previous employment. Some certificates and qualifications have not been signed and dated.

M12 There are no records of monitoring and appraisal being carried out in recent years.

Student administration	Met
M14 Staff are helpful and courteous to students and their representatives, and provide good 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 There are clear systems in place to enrol students effectively and maintain accurate information about student payment and course details. This information is readily accessible to relevant staff.	Met
M17 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
M18 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
M19 All staff and students are made aware of conditions and procedures under which a student may be asked to leave the course.	Met
M20 All students and, where appropriate, group leaders and parents/legal guardians, receive information in writing about who to see about problems and how to make a complaint.	Met

Comments

M17 Some of the student records sampled did not include local contact details. This was rectified by the time of the second part of the inspection, and is no longer a point to be addressed.

Publicity	Met
M21 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
M22 All publicity and information about the provider and the services it offers is in clear, accurate and accessible English.	Met
M23 Publicity gives clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on the courses.	Not met
M24 Publicity includes clear, accurate and easy-to-find information on costs.	Met
M25 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.	N/a
M26 Publicity gives an accurate description of any accommodation offered.	N/a
M27 Descriptions of staff qualifications are accurate.	N/a
M28 Claims to accreditation are in line with Scheme requirements.	Met
Comments	

M23 At the time of the inspection, the website did not state the maximum class size or the dates of public holidays when the school is closed. This was rectified during the inspection and is no longer a point to be addressed.

Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Met
P1 Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.	Not met
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.	Met
P3 Classrooms and other learning areas provide a suitable study environment.	Met
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

P1 Visitors and employees are not provided with sufficient health and safety briefings. This was rectified prior to the second part of the inspection and is no longer a point to be addressed. The entrance door is locked at all times, creating a safety risk for students, staff and visitors. The fire risk assessment carried out by an external consultant on 22 March 2024 identified a number of significant risks. During the second part of the inspection, the school demonstrated that it was taking advice from a fire safety engineer and was taking steps to address the risks identified.

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.	Met
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	

All criteria in this area are fully met.

Teaching and learning

Academic staff profile

T1 There is a clear recruitment and support policy for the academic team relevant to the stated course objectives and student profile.

Met

T2 The academic manager/academic management team has an appropriate professional profile to provide academic leadership.

T3 The teaching team has ELT/TESOL qualifications, general level of education, experience, knowledge and skills relevant to the courses they are teaching.

Comments

The academic staff team has a professional profile (qualifications and experience) that is appropriate to the school's context.

The recruitment and support policy is effectively devised and implemented in line with the stated course objectives and the student profile.

Academic management	Met
T4 Teachers are matched appropriately to courses and there are effective procedures for the appropriate timetabling of students, courses and classrooms.	Met
T5 There are formalised arrangements for covering for absent teachers which are satisfactory to students and staff.	Met
T6 Where enrolment is continuous, explicit attention is paid to all aspects of academic management affected.	Met
T7 There are effective arrangements for the academic induction of new teachers appropriate to their needs.	Met
T8 There are effective arrangements, led by an academic manager, to ensure appropriate day-to-day guidance and support for all teachers.	Met
T9 There are effective arrangements for the observation and monitoring of teachers' performance by a TEFLQ academic manager based on clear standards known to teachers.	Met
T10 There are effective procedures to ensure the continuing professional development (CPD) of all teachers to meet the needs of the individual teachers, the students, and the organisation.	Met
Comments	

All criteria in this area are fully met.

Course design and implementation	Met
T11 The course design is comprehensive and is based on the provider's stated approach to learning or educational philosophy, and is appropriate to the learning context.	Met
T12 Courses include strategies which help students to develop their language skills outside the classroom and benefit linguistically from their stay in the UK.	Met
T13 Course design is regularly reviewed in light of the different and changing needs of students and feedback from teachers and students.	Met
T14 Written course outlines and intended learning outcomes, appropriate to the course length and type, are available to students and referred to in class.	Met
Comments	

All criteria in this area are fully met.

Met
Met
Met
Met
Met
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All criteria in this area are fully met.

Classroom observation record

Number of teachers seen	1
Number of observations	2
Parts of programme(s) observed	General English
Comments	

One teacher was observed by both inspectors, one remotely and one in person.

Teaching: classroom observation

T19 Teachers produce accurate models of spoken and written English; they provide clear explanations and relevant examples of language and usage, that are appropriate to the aims of the lesson and suitable for the students' level.	Met
T20 The content of the lessons is based on the overall course objectives and takes into account the differing students' needs and backgrounds.	Not met
T21 The intended learning outcomes of lessons are made known to students, and are achieved through an appropriate sequence of activities.	Met
T22 Teaching techniques used are appropriate to the focus of the lesson, to the context, and to the needs of the group and individual learners.	Met
T23 Teachers enhance learning by effectively managing the classroom environment and teaching and learning resources.	Met
T24 Students receive and benefit from appropriate and timely feedback on their performance during the lesson.	Met
T25 Lessons include activities for teachers and students to evaluate whether learning is taking place.	Met
T26 Teachers promote a positive and inclusive learning atmosphere and students are engaged in the lesson.	Met
Commonto	

Comments

T19 The models of language produced were accurate and appropriate to the aims of the lesson.

T20 The lesson and the lesson plan did not pay sufficient attention to the course objectives or student needs.

T21 Learning outcomes were clearly expressed in terms of what students will be able to do better as a result of the lesson. An appropriate sequence of activities was planned to meet the outcomes.

T22 There was good use of nomination, elicitation, questioning, good monitoring. Instructions were clear and there was effective comprehension checking.

T23 Classroom resources were well managed, including clear boardwork and well-presented materials. The classroom space was well utilised, and there were opportunities for students to move and use the whiteboard. T24 Feedback was prompt and pertinent. There was encouraging and effective use of praise and useful correction and input to enhance performance.

T25 The lesson included opportunities for students to practise and use recently learned language.

T26 The lesson content was personalised, students had good opportunities to interact, and the learning environment was very positive.

Welfare and student services

Care of students	Met
W1 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
W2 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
W3 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
W4 Where relevant, students receive a 24-hour emergency contact number for the provider, in writing.	Met
W5 Students receive advice on relevant aspects of travel to and life in the UK.	Not met
W6 Students have access to adequate health care provision.	Met
Comments	

W5 Students are not currently provided with advice on travel to and life in the UK.

Accommodation (W7–W18 as applicable)	N/a
All accommodation	
W7 Students have a comfortable living environment throughout their stay.	N/a
W8 Arrangements for cleaning and laundry are satisfactory.	N/a
W9 A responsible representative inspects all accommodation (for safety and suitability) before students are placed, and at least every two years after that.	N/a

W10 Students receive written confirmation of accommodation booked, giving clear and accurate information.	N/a
W11 There are effective procedures for identifying and resolving any problems students have with their accommodation.	N/a
W12 Accommodation providers receive written confirmation of the rules, terms and conditions applied by the provider with respect to the provision of accommodation services.	N/a
W13 Students receive meals as agreed; these offer a well-balanced diet, taking into account any reasonable dietary requirements students may have.	N/a
Comments	

No accommodation is offered.

Accommodation: homestay only	
W14 Homestay hosts comply with the agreed terms and conditions for student placements.	N/a
W15 Homestay placements encourage students to use English.	N/a
W16 Hosts ensure that there is an adult available to receive students on first arrival.	N/a
Comments	

N/a

Accommodation: other	
W17 Students receive information about the implications of their living in private rented accommodation and advice in case of difficulties.	N/a
W18 The provider monitors any other accommodation recommended, and booking and payment arrangements are clear.	N/a
Comments	

N/a

Leisure opportunities	Area of strength
W19 Students have appropriate information about and access to social, cultural and sporting events and activities which enhance their experience of studying in the UK.	N/a
W20 The content of any leisure programme is appropriate to the age and interests of the students.	N/a
W21 Any leisure programmes are well organised and sufficiently resourced.	N/a
W22 There are effective systems to ensure the health and safety of students on all on-site and off-site activities.	N/a
W23 Staff supervising sporting and leisure activities on or off-site have appropriate experience, support and training.	N/a
Comments	

N/a

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 Sampling identified the following issue: the fire risk assessment carried out by an external consultant on 22 March 2024 identified a number of significant risks; the school should seek further advice from the relevant statutory/regulatory body to address these issues. During the second part of the inspection, the school demonstrated that it was taking advice from a fire safety engineer and was taking steps to address the risks identified.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2008
Last full inspection	2017
Subsequent checks/visits (if applicable)	2019 spot check and 2021 interim
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	2006 (current ownership company March 2024)	
Ownership	Name of company: 123 Global Education Ltd Company number: 15584701	
Other accreditation/inspection	N/a	

Premises profile

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

Student profile	At inspection	Estimate at peak
ELT/ESOL students (eligible courses)	April	August
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) 18 years and over	2	50
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) aged 16–17 years	0	0
Full-time ELT (15+ hours per week) aged under 16	0	0
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	2	50
Adult programmes: advertised minimum age	18+	50
Adult programmes: typical age range	18–40	18–40
Adult programmes: typical length of stay	4 weeks	4 weeks
Adult programmes: predominant nationalities	Sri Lankan	Gulf states, European countries
Junior programmes: advertised minimum age	0	0
Junior programmes: advertised maximum age	0	0
Junior programmes: typical length of stay	0	0
Junior programmes: predominant nationalities	0	0

Staff profile	At inspection (April)	Estimate at peak
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	1	6

Number teaching ELT 20 hours and over a week	0	
Number teaching ELT under 20 hours a week	1	
Number of academic managers for eligible ELT courses	1	1
Number of management (non-academic) and administrative staff working on eligible ELT courses	0	
Total number of support staff	0	

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	0	
Total	1	
Comments		
None.		

Teacher qualifications profile

Profile in week of inspection		
Professional qualifications	Number of teachers	
TEFLQ qualification/profile	0	
TEFLI qualification	1	
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	0	
Comments		
None.		

Number of students in each at the time of inspection (all students on eligible courses) - April			
Types of accommodation	Adults	Under 18s	
Arranged by provider/agency			
Homestay	0	0	
Private home	0	0	
Home tuition	0	0	
Residential	0	0	
Hotel/guesthouse	0	0	
Independent self-catering e.g. flats, bedsits, student houses	0	0	
Arranged by student/family/guardian			
Staying with own family	0	0	
Staying in privately rented rooms/flats	2	0	
Overall totals adults/under 18s	2	0	
Overall total adults + under 18s	2		

Items requiring early action

Evidence must be submitted within three months to demonstrate that weaknesses in P1 have been addressed. The required evidence was subsequently submitted.