

Organisation name	ILC Portsmouth – Walhampton summer residential school
Inspection date	16 July 2025
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 2026; 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 ILC Portsmouth in October 2022 and July 2025. 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 adults (18+), young people (16+), for closed groups of under 18s, and vacation courses for under 18s.

Strengths were noted in the area of premises and facilities.

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

**Summary inspection findings****Management**

The provision meets the section standard. The management of the provision operates to the benefit of the students and values, and their publicity. The structure of the organisation is well established, communication is very good, and student administration is carried out efficiently and effectively.

**Premises and resources**

The provision meets the section standard and exceeds it in some respects. The premises provide students and staff with a very comfortable and pleasant 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 students and staff where needed. *Premises and facilities* is an area of strength.

**Teaching and learning**

The provision meets the section standard. The academic team has a professional profile appropriate to the context. Course design and learner management are effective. Teachers receive good support, and overall, the courses are managed to provide benefit to students. 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 and pastoral care are generally well met. Students benefit from well-managed and suitable accommodation on the whole, and the leisure programme is appropriate to the needs and interests of the current student profile.

**Safeguarding under 18s**

The provision meets the section standard. The school's safeguarding policy is comprehensive and made known to staff, students, group leaders and homestay hosts. Recruitment procedures are thorough, and sampled documents were mostly complete. Attendance of under 18s students is carefully monitored and risk assessments for unsupervised time have been carried out.

**Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance**

The items sampled were satisfactory.

## Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	July 2008 (as Portsmouth Language College)
Last full inspection	September & October 2022
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	ILC Birmingham, ILC Bristol, ILC Cambridge, ILC Colchester, ILC Portsmouth
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a

## Student and staff profile

	At inspection	Estimate at peak: July
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	28	28
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	9	9
Typical age range	11–13	11–13
Typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks
Predominant nationalities	Tajik, Kazak, Italian	Tajik, Kazak, Italian
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	3	3
Total number of managers including academic	3	3
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	One plus host school catering & maintenance staff	One plus host school catering & maintenance staff

## Premises profile

Address of main site	7–9 Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 1DE
Additional sites in use	Walhampton School, Lymington, New Forest, Hampshire SO41 5ZG
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Sites inspected	Walhampton School

## Introduction

### Background

This was a spot check to inspect the new junior summer school premises of ILC Portsmouth. Initial arrangements for the new premises started in 2023 and a small pilot course ran in the summer of 2024. The centre manager (CM) has previously worked at ILC Cardiff as the director of studies and returned from abroad to work at the main school in Portsmouth in April 2025. She has been closely involved in the setup of the summer centre working with the regional director west. The CM transferred to Walhampton at the start of the course and conducted the staff induction with the regional director. The director is based in Portsmouth, but they have daily contact and he provides cover at Walhampton when the CM has time off. The CM also line manages and is supported by the head of activities and the head of boarding who doubles up as one of the house parents. At the time of the inspection there were three groups of students, accompanied by their respective group leaders and three independent students who were living locally with their parents and attending the course as day-students.

### Preparation

The school was contacted in early June to check the availability of key staff and to request some documents. The date of the inspection was not specified. Documents were provided in advance by the Accreditation Unit and the school. The website was checked.

### Programme and persons present

The inspector arrived at 9.15 and left at 13.00. She conducted a tour of the site and had meetings with the CM and the director. Separate focus group meetings were held with the group leaders, teachers and students. The inspector checked a range of current records and materials. All relevant documents were provided for the inspector during the inspection. At the end of the inspection the inspector gave a brief round up to the CM and director.

### Description

The under 18s residential summer school is based at Walhampton College, a year-round independent day and boarding school in Lymington, Hampshire. ILC uses three classrooms in the main building and a large multi-purpose room is used as an office, for lesson preparation and resources storage. Staff also have a separate staff

room with comfortable seating and refreshment facilities which they use for breaks. Additional facilities include a large dining hall, a theatre, a food tech room, and student common rooms. All meals are taken in the school dining hall. Within the main building there are two separate boarding houses, one for girls on the first floor and one for boys on the second floor. Entrance to the accommodation can only be gained by using a fob or a keycode and these are restricted to group leaders and ILC staff. Accommodation is in dormitories with three to six beds in each room. There are separate bathroom and toilet facilities for students and staff across the premises.

Extensive grounds and sports facilities surround the school. They include a heated outdoor swimming pool, as well as tennis courts, a firepit, climbing frames, football and astro-turf pitches and a sports hall. To the front of the school there are views across the field towards the Solent sea crossing to the Isle of Wight. The school is a 10-minute walk from Lymington a small town with a high street and a range of shops. Students can visit the town when accompanied by their group leaders and ILC staff at specified times.

## Findings

### Management

The course is running in line with the school's goals and values. Local and central management systems are operating effectively and staff, students and group leaders commented positively on the responsiveness of staff and the smooth running of the course. Publicity reflects the course being offered.

### Premises and resources

The new residential summer centre provides the school with extensive premises and facilities in a beautiful countryside location. ILC Portsmouth has quickly established a cooperative relationship with the host school. A number of visits were made to the centre prior to the course starting so that fire safety and premises checks and risk assessments could be conducted. Procedures are in place for continuing compliance in relation to legal and health and safety matters.

### Safeguarding under 18s

Safeguarding documentation is in place and ILC staff have all been trained. Accommodation arrangements are good and supervision systems are comprehensive. Students are supervised during classes, afternoon and evening course activities by ILC staff and group leaders are responsible for the supervision of their own students at break times and between 16.30 and 18.00. Group leaders are also part of the supervision numbers on excursions.

### Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

## Premises and resources

Premises and facilities	Area of strength
P1 Providers ensure the safety and security of students on their premises by measures appropriate to their age and background, and the location.	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.	Strength
P3 Classrooms and other learning areas provide a suitable study environment.	Strength
P4 Students have adequate room and suitable facilities for relaxation and the consumption of food.	Strength
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

P2 The premises are in very good decorative order, cleanliness is of a very high standard throughout. There is ample space for student use outside class time with extensive facilities, grounds and gardens.

P3 Classrooms are well appointed and spacious. The furniture is flexible and allows for different layouts and activities.

P4 The students have very comfortable common rooms in their respective boarding houses as well as a shared lounge. All meals are of a very high standard both staff and students commented very positively on the provision.

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.	N/a
P11 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 area are fully met.

#### Action taken on points to be addressed

##### Welfare and student services

W1 (now P1) Risk assessments are not undertaken for residences offered by the school.

**Addressed. A full set of premises risk assessments including accommodation were in place for the Walhampton summer school.**

W6 No information is given on approximate costs of transport options for students making their own way from the point of entry to the provider or accommodation.

**N/a for Walhampton.** The cost of student transfers is included in the group booking fee.

W22 Accommodation recommended by the school is not routinely visited.

**Addressed. All the student accommodation was visited prior to the start of the course.**

##### Safeguarding under 18s

S6 Risk assessments are not in place for periods of unsupervised time.

**Addressed. Risk assessments are in place. The supervision responsibilities of group leaders is made clear and they were fully aware of their duties. The students are supervised at all times.**

#### Conclusions

The new summer premises at Walhampton are wholly appropriate to the student profile. ILC has conducted all the necessary checks and has suitable measures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of staff, group leaders and students. The school management has addressed the points to be addressed, relevant to the new summer school, that were raised in the previous Portsmouth main school report.

#### Items requiring early action

None.