

Organisation name	Peartree English Language Experience and Adventure (ELEA), head office Cardiff
Inspection date	10 August 2022
Current accreditation status	Accredited by extension
Reason for spot check	Signalled: first inspection of new extension

Recommendation

We recommend continued accreditation of Peartree English Language Experience and Adventure as the seasonal centre of Peartree Languages.

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 Peartree Languages, Cardiff in October 2019 and 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 private language school offers courses in general English for adults (18+) and young people (16+) and for closed groups of under-18s, and vacation courses for under-18s.

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

Updated summary inspection findings

Management

The provision meets the section standard. The provision is generally managed satisfactorily in accordance with the organisation's stated values and goals. Following changes made during the inspection, the publicity is appropriate for the context. The provision for the English Language Experience and Adventure (ELEA) summer vacation course meets the standard well.

Premises and resources

The provision meets the section standard. Premises and facilities generally meet the needs of students and staff but there is no staffroom. Learning resources are appropriate and adequate in number to support effective learning and teaching. The premises and resources for the ELEA course are of a high standard.

Organisation profile

Inspection history	Dates/details
First inspection	2010
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	N/a
Other related accredited schools/centres/affiliates	N/a
Other related non-accredited schools/centres/affiliates	Partner organisation: Atlantic Experience Ltd

Student and staff profile	At inspection	In peak weeks: July/August
Total ELT/ESOL student numbers (FT + PT)	43	43
Minimum age (including closed group or vacation)	12	12
Typical age range	14–16	14–16
Typical length of stay	2 weeks	2 weeks

Predominant nationalities	Spanish, German	Spanish, German
Total number of teachers on eligible ELT courses	4	4
Total number of managers including academic	2 + AX staff	2 + AX staff
Total number of administrative/ancillary staff	1 + staff of Atlantic College	1 + staff of Atlantic College

Premises profile

Address of main site	18 Llandaff Road, Cardiff CF11 9NJ
Additional sites in use	Atlantic College, St Donat's Castle, St Donat's Llantwit Major CF61 1WF
Additional sites not in use	N/a
Site inspected	Atlantic College, St Donat's Castle, St Donat's Llantwit Major CF61 1WF

Introduction

Background

Peartree Languages (PL) offers year-round courses for adults and young adults, and closed groups for juniors. It no longer runs a summer junior course at Cardiff and Vale College.

In 2022, PL, in partnership with Atlantic Experience (AX), offered a new summer vacation course for juniors entitled 'English Language Experience and Adventure (ELEA)' at Atlantic College. AX is a department of United World College Atlantic (UWC Atlantic), an independent boarding school; it has several years' experience of running summer activity programmes for children and teenagers, both residential and day camps.

ELEA falls under the umbrella of the summer educational programme managed by AX which is responsible for the provision of accommodation, food and beverages for staff and students; full pastoral care of course participants; the programming, staffing, risk assessing, and delivery of all aspects of the ELEA sports and social programme (with the exception of some language-based excursions and activities); the inbound and outbound transfers. AX also provides a sales and marketing service which includes the design and creation of marketing materials, the administration of direct course bookings and the collection of fees.

PL is responsible for the English language course content and teaching and learning resources; the administration of agent bookings; the recruitment and management of academic staff; full-day cultural off-site trips and some language-based afternoon and evening activities.

In 2019 an extension was granted so that the ELEA course could be included within the PL accreditation. Although there was some online provision in 2021 the first running of the onsite course had to be postponed until 2022. This was a scheduled inspection of provision accredited by extension. Two two-week courses were being run at Atlantic College in 2022. The spot check was conducted in the last week of the second course.

Preparation

As the inspection was held remotely a date and a timetable were agreed and a number of documents were sent in advance at the request of the inspector.

Programme and persons present

The spot check inspection was conducted by one inspector and took place remotely over one day. Meetings were held with PL staff: the ELEA course director (who is the PL owner and centre manager), the academic manager and the operations assistant. Meetings were also held with some Atlantic College staff: the head of AX, and the operations manager. Focus group meetings were held with the teachers and a representative group of students. A number of relevant documents were scrutinised before and during the inspection and a video tour of the premises was viewed.

Findings

Management

There is a clear statement of goals and values and realistic objectives for the future of ELEA. Effective management systems and communication channels have been established between PL and AX. Appropriate quality assurance systems are in place. Procedures for the recruitment, induction and development of PL staff are well managed. Student administration is handled well by AX, in liaison with PL. Publicity for the ELEA course consists of a website and downloadable brochures. The website is set up by AX in consultation with PL; publicity meets the Scheme criteria.

Premises and resources

The Atlantic College campus is well suited to the needs of the ELEA students and staff. Premises are attractive and well maintained. The classrooms are spacious, have good natural light and allow flexibility of layout. There are facilities for relaxation including common rooms and outdoor space, and there is a wide range of indoor and outdoor sports and leisure facilities. A choice of healthy food is served in the dining hall. There are bespoke digital learning resources for student use and teachers have additional audio-visual resources. The educational technology is well maintained and supported by AX. There are effective policies and practices to ensure the continuing review and development of teaching and learning resources.

Teaching and learning

The academic profile is satisfactory. The PL academic manager, who is TEFLQ and based in the Cardiff school, visits the ELEA course at regular times. He ran an induction day before the course, has observed the teachers and given detailed oral and written feedback on their lessons. Academic management and administrative systems are robust. The course design is based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For teachers, there is a coherent and appropriate course structure in the form of guidelines and a set of lesson plans. Students can access schemes of work and information about work completed via an online app. The course includes information and study and learning strategies that support independent learning and which help the students to develop their language skills outside the classroom and to continue their learning after the course. There are procedures for evaluating, monitoring and recording students' progress. Students receive a report and leaving certificate at the end of their course.

The teaching was not observed during this spot check inspection. However, students in the focus group reported that the lessons are interesting, challenging and provide opportunities for them to practise and extend their language knowledge and skills.

Welfare and student services

AX has overall responsibility for welfare, accommodation and leisure opportunities. The arrangements are agreed and checked by PL. There is evidence to demonstrate that the provision is of a high standard. The campus is secure and risk assessments are in place for the use of the premises and grounds, and for all on-site and off-site activities. Accommodation arrangements are suitable. The activities are well organised and popular with the students.

Safeguarding under 18s

AX has overall responsibility for safeguarding. The arrangements are agreed and checked by PL. Policies are appropriate and procedures are rigorously implemented.

Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance

The items sampled were satisfactory.

Conclusions

The provision for the ELEA courses meets the standards of management, resources and premises, teaching, welfare, and safeguarding under 18s. PL has agreements and checks in place to ensure that the elements provided by AX meet the standards of the Scheme.
