

INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR WESTFIELD HOUSE

UKVI LICENCE No:86GB8DO97

Education oversight inspection of private further education colleges on behalf of the Home Office's division of United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

The overall inspection findings for this college

UKVI Standards for

courses and qualifications are	MET
teaching, learning and assessment are	MET
the cultural and moral development of students are	MET
welfare, health and safety are	MET
the effectiveness and suitability of staff are	MET
financial sustainability, leadership and governance are	MET
premises and accommodation are	MET
information and complaints are	MET

Compliance with UKVI Standards

The college meets all the UKVI Standards

Introduction

Purpose and scope of the inspection

Mainland Education Ltd is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI) section of the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges in England, with a Steiner, Montessori or Eurythmy basis or background, or with a clear religious purpose. Inspection is designed to assess the college's compliance with the Standards for colleges agreed with the Home Office. These Standards cover the quality of education and welfare provided to all students, including those from overseas whose visas are sponsored by the college, and, where applicable, those who are under eighteen or are vulnerable adults. On-site student accommodation, where provided, is assessed for compliance with the Standards but is not subject to a full boarding inspection. Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the extent to which colleges meet the Standards. By placing reports in the public domain, the information they contain is available to students, the UKVI, and the wider community.

Inspection takes account of the context of each individual college, and of how it evaluates its own performance and demonstrates its success. It helps colleges, their staff and trustees, governors, and/or proprietors to recognise and build on their strengths and to identify and remedy their weaknesses in relation to compliance. The inspection also takes account of the college's financial performance since the last inspection and makes an assessment of the college's financial sustainability going forward, on the basis of information provided by the college. Prospective students, their parents and agents should make their own enquiries into the financial viability of institutions before accepting a place.

Colleges are subject to a full inspection once every four years which is conducted by two inspectors over two days. In the intervening years, colleges receive an annual interim inspection and are kept under review. Interim inspections build on the findings from the last full inspection and state whether or not the college continues to meet the agreed Standards.

The last full inspection of Westfield House was conducted by Mainland Education Ltd in October 2023, and the last interim inspection in January 2025. The college met all the required Standards for privately funded colleges in both inspections.

Characteristics of the college

Westfield House, the theological college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE) is a small residential institution located close to the centre of Cambridge. It prepares postgraduate students for ministry in the Lutheran Church either as pastors or for other church work, and offers to undergraduates a range of modular courses in the liberal arts and sciences. Twenty six students are expected to be enrolled at the college and on-line over the course of the academic year 2025/26. All in-person students are foreign nationals, this academic year all are from the USA and all are over the age of eighteen. The vast majority of students are attending Westfield House for one term only as part of the 'Study Abroad' programme from their home Lutheran universities or seminaries in the United States, with which Westfield House has built up close and strong partnerships over a long period of time. These students have a Learning Agreement which specifies a course of full-time study for the period that they are at Westfield House, consisting of modular courses of their choice through which they earn credits with their home institutions. As part

of the college's enrichment provision students are given leave to attend University of Cambridge lectures and they also have access to the university's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). All in-person students have access to the Cambridge Theological Federation so that they can, and do, attend lectures at the university and the federation. They also participate in a wide range of trips and study tours organised by Westfield House which are aimed at widening and developing their cultural awareness and understanding. Westfield House maintains a licence to sponsor overseas students with a study visa and uses this facility only for the small number of postgraduate students who are in the United Kingdom for a year or more while following the Master of Divinity course. There are currently no sponsored students. The college also makes available online a Lutheran Theology Certificate course, accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC). This is currently being followed on a part-time basis by a small number of Lutherans based in Ghana, and by other students. Apart from the online students, all students live in the college's residential accommodation on site. The college shares the site with a Lutheran church, and this building also serves as a chapel for Westfield House.

Main Findings of Interim Inspection

Westfield House meets all of the Standards required by UKVI. All the students follow a course of full-time study that focuses on different areas of theology including the scriptures and the Lutheran confessions. Westfield House is a part of the Cambridge Theological Federation and this gives students access to breadth and depth of theological study. In addition, students choose modules from a range of topics including liberal arts, science, astrophysics, world religions, British life and culture and world music. There are well established agreements with the students' home universities that enable students to gain degree credits from their Westfield House study modules. These secure agreements give students confidence that their study at Westfield House will count towards qualification at their home institution. Students make very good progress; all complete the course and the pass rate is very high.

Teaching and learning are a real strength at Westfield House. The college has a small, well established group of experienced and expert tutors, all active scholars and researchers in their own right. The tutors provided clear evidence of their continuing academic work, including a recent academic book publication by one of them. This high level research is a key factor in the quality of teaching; students say they enjoy the challenge of dialogue and discussion, and being asked to express and explain their own views. Students see this as a move up from undergraduate learning to a more postgraduate approach that develops their intellectual skills and broadens their knowledge. Seminars led by visiting distinguished scholars from a variety of disciplines also encourage debate and the development of thinking skills. The college takes good account of the prior learning of their students. A number of former Westfield House students have become distinguished academics in their own right. It is notable that some students who bring with them declared learning 'accommodations' feel able in the Westfield House setting to participate fully in conventional learning without additional support or provision. This reflects the capacity of the college, as a small institution with skilled tutors, to support individual students.

The cultural and moral development of students meets all UKVI Standards and is another

strength, forming a key part of the provision. In interview students spoke confidently about wanting to use their Westfield House experience to broaden their knowledge of countries and cultures beyond the USA. The students have very good opportunities to learn about British life and culture; their self-catering college accommodation is in an urban setting close to the centre of Cambridge and so they encounter a cosmopolitan population on a daily basis. Visits are arranged to a range of places related to the courses, including London, Bath and Stratford. They are taken to places of worship of other religions and to iconic sites such as Stonehenge and Jodrell Bank. Students are encouraged to develop self confidence through independent travel in the UK and abroad, and students spoke of plans to visit, for example, Poland, Hungary and Turkey while they are in Europe. Respect for others is integral to the Lutheran way of life and the college is very careful about ensuring good behaviour. All the staff complete 'Prevent' and safeguarding training and are alert to any extremist or terrorist-related issues.

The Standards for welfare, health and safety are met. Fire alarm and emergency lighting systems are checked monthly and annually. Fire risk assessments and fire drills are carried out regularly and recorded. Where fire and safety risks are identified, work is carried out by external contractors to remedy the problem. The college has arrangements for reporting any extended student absences to UKVI. There is minimal absenteeism.

All the necessary pre-employment checks on staff have been carried out. A new member of staff has joined the faculty this academic year, and all the necessary employment and character checks, including overseas checks, were made. One request for a reference did not receive a timely response but the college rightly pursued this and the reference was obtained. This shows that the college is aware of the importance of carrying through to completion all the checks required by Standard 24. All students are over the age of eighteen, but the college continues to keep a careful eye on them to address any pastoral problems. Students say that they know they can contact pastoral staff in the event of any concerns. Staff have undertaken safeguarding training and a suitable safeguarding policy is in place. Although there is a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) within the attached Lutheran church community, the college has rightly made the decision to make immediate arrangements to train a Westfield House member of staff to the required higher level to become the on-site DSL. This is a sensible measure to further promote the safeguarding of students.

The college has good financial sustainability and this gives confidence that students are not at risk of being unable to complete their courses. There are plans for Westfield House to become a stand-alone charity separate from the wider Lutheran Church organisation. Management is effective: the Principal and the governing body meet regularly, and weekly faculty meetings monitor and maintain the quality of educational and pastoral provision.

Accommodation is good and safeguards the health and safety of students. The original Westfield House, an early Victorian building, is maintained with care and to a good standard. It provides suitable teaching and learning space, with good provision for class teaching as well as individual self-directed study. There are two residential blocks, one of which was being refurbished at the time of the inspection. The other block is a modern

self-contained house; it is a secure building with good facilities, and is well suited to students' needs. Students say they feel safe in their accommodation. The rooms (single and double) are comfortable and spacious and have good toilet and shower facilities. There is a modern self-catering kitchen, a laundry room and a large communal living room. A small number of postgraduate students from outside the college are able to rent rooms when they are not being used by Westfield House students, and there are two small self-contained flats within the premises; non-college residents are known to management. Provision can be made if required for students with special needs or disabilities.

The long established arrangement for students from the Lutheran Concordia universities in the USA and Germany to undertake a 'Study Abroad' semester ensures that there is an assured intake of overseas students. The overseas programmes are well documented on the individual websites of the partner universities and on the Westfield House website. Students value the careful induction programme they receive on arrival. The small numbers in the college and day-to-day interaction with tutors means that students are kept well informed about their progress. The students are aware that there is a complaints procedure but this has not been invoked in recent years.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive an interim check in 2027.

Actions Required

- **No action is required**

COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	Westfield House
Address of college:	30 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0HH
Telephone number:	07883 740117
Email address:	enquiries@westfield.cam.ac.uk
Proprietor:	Evangelical Lutheran Church of England Trust Ltd.
Name of Principal:	Dr. Cynthia Lumley
Licence number:	86GB8DO97
Type of college:	Further education and study abroad HE

Details of student body

Age range	18 - 26
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Number of students on roll:		Visa	Study Abroad (One Term)	UK	Total
	Full Time:	0	26	0	26
	Over 18:	0	26	0	26
	Below 18	0	0	0	0

Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Peter R. Jones
Date of inspection:	3 rd February 2026	