

**INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR
MARIA MONTESSORI INSTITUTE
UKVI LICENCE No: 10004202**

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 Maria Montessori Institute (MMI) was conducted by Mainland Education Ltd in December 2023. The college received an interim check in January 2025. On both of these occasions MMI met all the required Standards for privately funded colleges.

Characteristics of the college

The Maria Montessori Institute (MMI) is an independent college providing full and part-time courses which train adult students to teach children in the methods developed by Maria Montessori. The training centre is located in Riding House Street in central London with its administrative head office in Hampstead. Also part of the group is an independent Montessori school, 'The Maria Montessori School', for children aged 2.5 -16 years. As part of their training course, the college students undertake teaching practice in the school or in other approved Montessori settings. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2025 when it was judged to be good overall, with outstanding nursery provision.

MMI attracts students from all over the world who come to train in Montessori methodology. In the current academic year (2025-26) there are forty-four students on roll, thirty-seven of whom are UK residents; and seven international students with study visas sponsored by the college. All of the students are aged over eighteen. Fourteen students are following the course on a part-time basis, all of whom are UK residents.

The college offers a number of courses, the core one being the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) Diploma course training teachers in Montessori methodology for children aged 3-6 years. This course may be taken as an intensive full-time one-year course; or as a two-year course, also full-time but conducted at a steadier pace; as a two-year evening course; or as a two-year modular course (online plus short in-person modules). The Diploma course incorporates the Early Years Educator (EYE) Level 3 Diploma, accredited by Innovative Awarding Ltd., which is approved by the UKVI and taken by all visa students. Students taking the Diploma Course over two years have the additional option to take a Foundation degree in Montessori Pedagogy awarded jointly by AMI and the University of East London. There are also AMI Diploma courses specialising in teaching children aged 0-3 years, and 6-12 years, with a course for teaching pupils aged 12-18 starting this spring. MMI also provides continued professional development for Montessori teachers and trainers. It is continually developing its range of short and online courses to apply Montessori methodology, for example to teaching children with different abilities and helping patients with dementia.

Main Findings of the Interim Inspection

The Maria Montessori Institute continues to meet all the UKVI Educational Oversight Standards and to be a world class centre of excellence in training teachers in Montessori methodology. Its courses are suitably challenging and fully meet the expectations and aspirations of the students. Clear information about the course requirements is given to all students. Those with study visas follow a full-time course leading to a recognised qualification. Non-native speakers have all reached the required level of English set out by the UKVI and, where needed, MMI is able to support individuals with targeted help. Retention and pass rates on all courses are high. The vast majority of students, including those with visas, complete their course and gain the appropriate qualification. Most do so at the first attempt, but there is an opportunity to re-sit any failed papers, and any student who fails to gain the qualification does so for well-founded reasons.

MMI has many great strengths. The institute is highly responsive to the needs and interests of students, and is innovative in its development of courses and continual drive

for improvement. All courses are well-organised, fully documented and delivered by well-qualified and expert Montessori trainers with substantial experience. All trainers receive excellent continued professional development, including opportunities for modelling and peer-to-peer training which ensures that the quality of training for students remains consistently high. Current students confirm that they have been challenged by both theoretical and practical aspects of their training and also value highly the support and direction of practitioners when on teaching practice. Their work is assessed frequently and regularly, and tutors give detailed guidance for improvement. As a result, students make very good progress and their self-esteem is high.

Valuing and respecting equality and diversity are cornerstones of Montessori practice. The multinational, multicultural nature of the student body affords students excellent opportunities to learn about and respect the different backgrounds, lifestyles and cultures of their peers. The nature of the course fosters a calm and respectful approach to guiding children and handling Montessori equipment with care. The training encourages collaborative ways of working, and students are required to make meaningful contributions to discussions and presentations to the group. This helps them to develop self-confidence. The college is fully aware of its responsibility to ensure that students behave responsibly and obey the law. Prior to enrolment, all students must provide a clean certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and/or police clearance from their home country, and all have completed an online Prevent training course while at the college.

All the Standards for welfare, health and safety continue to be met. MMI has clear policies and procedures for safeguarding students' health and safety, including fire safety and first aid, and appropriate records of accidents, equipment checks and drills are kept. The college records and monitors attendance rigorously so that all students maintain high rates of attendance and understand the importance of doing so. Administrators are fully aware of the UKVI's attendance requirements for visa students and operate a clear policy for reporting student absence. Pastoral arrangements are strong. Students feel well supported by an effective tutorial system which provides individual care and attention for their mental and physical well-being. Those from overseas say they also appreciate the guidance given about living in the UK and practical help in finding accommodation in London. Safeguarding arrangements are clear and well managed: students feel that they and their belongings are safe. MMI operates safe staff recruitment procedures and keeps meticulous records of the checks it has made on a single central register (SCR). MMI also ensures that all its students have received appropriate clearance for working with children when on training placements in schools and nurseries, and that they have completed appropriate basic safeguarding training. The college's premises and accommodation meet the Standards. They are modern, spacious, clean and well-equipped for the specialist requirements of a Montessori training course. The premises are not used for any purpose other than Montessori training, and there is disabled access to both floors. Students know how to make a complaint, if necessary, but none were made in the last year.

The college is very well led and managed. Managers, trainers and administrators work together in an effective and cohesive team so that the college operates smoothly and efficiently. Policies and procedures are clear and effective, and are reviewed regularly. Despite recent challenges in the educational landscape, MMI continues to have a secure financial basis with good cash flow. Its prudent financial operations, together with sound plans and forecasts, give confidence in its viability and sustainability going forward.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive a further interim check in the next academic year.

Actions Required

- No action is required

COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	The Maria Montessori Institute
Address of college:	41, Riding House Street, London W1W 7BE
Telephone number:	0207 435 3646
Email address:	info@mariamontessori.org
Proprietor:	Maria Montessori Training Organisation
Name of Principal:	Lynne Lawrence (Executive Director) Louise Livingston (Head of Training)
Licence number:	10004202
Type of college:	Private College of Further Education

Details of student body

Age range	18+
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Number of students on roll 2025-26:	Visa	UK	Total
		7	37

Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Jane Cooper
Date of inspection:	3 rd March 2026	