



# INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR TOBIAS SCHOOL OF ART and THERAPY

**UKVI LICENCE No: 3MMY8EHA0**

**Inspection relating to the educational oversight 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:**

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

**Compliance with UKVI Standards:**

**The college meets all the UKVI Standards**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose and scope of the inspection

The School Inspection Service (SIS) is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the UK 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 by SIS is designed to assess the college's compliance with the SIS College Standards. The Standards cover the quality of education and welfare provided to all students, including those from overseas who are sponsored by the college for Tier 4 visas, and, where applicable, those under eighteen and 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/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 over the last two years for new providers and since the last inspection for established providers. Based on this evidence an assessment is made of the college's financial sustainability over the next four-year period. This work is done by a qualified accountant 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 inspected on a four year cycle, with a full inspection of two days by two inspectors every four years, and an interim inspection of one day by one inspector in each of the three intervening years.

Tobias College of Art and Therapy received a full inspection in February 2016 and an interim inspection in May 2017. Each of these inspections resulted in reports which are published on the SIS website: [www.schoolinspectionsevice.co.uk](http://www.schoolinspectionsevice.co.uk).

## **Characteristics of the college**

Tobias School of Art and Therapy was founded in 1982. It is a registered charity, constituted as a limited company whose trustees form its board of directors. The School provides professional training for students to become transpersonal arts counsellors working with people in need of support in a wide variety of settings including education, the armed services, healthcare and mental health. The pedagogical approach follows the developmental philosophy founded by Rudolf Steiner, known as anthroposophy. Students are invited to explore this approach in order to come to their own judgements about its validity and relevance. This is taught within a critical context including Psychodynamic and Humanistic theory and practice. All of the students are aged over 24 years and come from the United Kingdom, the European Community and countries all around the world. There are 54 students on roll of whom currently seven require a Tier IV visa. The School offers a full-time course in Transpersonal Arts for Health and Wellbeing at Level 5 and full-time and modular courses in Transpersonal Arts in Therapy at Levels 6 and 7. These courses are externally validated by City and Guilds. The School is situated on a spacious campus on the edge of East Grinstead, West Sussex.

## **SECTION A: Main Findings and Actions Required**

### **Main findings**

The School continues to meet the SIS Standards and UKVI requirements. As last year, it continues to offer a full-time course in Transpersonal Arts for Health and Wellbeing at Level 5; and full-time and modular courses in Transpersonal Arts in Therapy at Levels 6 and 7 which are externally validated by City and Guilds. Both courses are of high quality, well-planned, and much valued by the students. They enable the students to develop their artistic talent and creativity and explore therapeutic ways of deepening their own self-awareness and helping others through art. Completion rates are high on the full-time courses in particular. The Transpersonal Arts in Therapy course includes extended and varied work placements in which students use the practical skills they have learnt in School to work as art counsellors alongside individuals in need of support. The work placements demand commitment, reliability and good interpersonal skills. They enable students to develop a greater understanding of mental health issues and encourage them to explore how art therapy can help individuals to work through problems. The case studies produced by students from their placements are detailed and reflective. Students have extensive folders of work which demonstrate strong and sustained learning, with assessment being a strong feature. The frank and helpful comments from supervisors and placement managers cover all areas of the student's activity. Tutors are well-qualified, experienced experts in their field. Teaching is well-planned and effective, offering good opportunities in School for the students to work both individually and collaboratively, learning from and building on one another's creativity to generate and reflect on ideas. The students report that they find their course of study intellectually challenging and value the support and challenge of their peers with whom they exchange ideas. Second year students in particular spoke enthusiastically of the value of both their work in School and the benefit gained from their work placements and the support they received from their tutors.

Students work together in a harmonious and companionable community which they refer to as having elements of 'a family'. They are respectful of one another and use the diverse and multicultural nature of the student body positively to learn more about one another's customs, beliefs and the things they all have in common. They behave responsibly and respect the law. They say that their course of study helps them to develop their own self-awareness.

The School has good governance and its resources and finances are managed prudently. The buildings and grounds are well-maintained and provide an appropriate environment in which to study. A clear five-year maintenance plan ensures that the buildings are kept in good order. All the necessary policies covering students' health, safety and well-being are in place and are reviewed regularly. The staff have received appropriate training, for example in fire safety and first aid. Drills are held and fire and electrical equipment is tested on a regular basis and there are sensible risk assessments in place. The School makes appropriate adjustments for any student who is disabled. Student

attendance is recorded appropriately and absence is followed up. Staff are aware of the duty to report absence of students with a Tier IV visa.

The School has drawn up a five-year development plan which identifies areas of the building which would need extending in the event of a sustained rise in student recruitment. Student numbers are stable this year but the School has recently revamped its website to make it more attractive and user-friendly to those accessing it via mobile phone technology. The School has also raised its profile on a broader range of social media, and staff are monitoring the impact of these developments on student recruitment. There is a rigorous process for recruiting suitably qualified students with a good level of English language who can benefit from the courses. The School supplies them with comprehensive information about its courses and expectations. Students confirmed that information was accurate and sufficient for their needs. They knew how to make a complaint should they wish to do so, although practically they raised any matters through the staff/student committee. No formal complaints have been received this year.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive an interim inspection check in one year and a further full inspection in two years.

### **Actions Required**

No action is required.

## SECTION B: COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

### Details of college

Name of college:	Tobias School of Art and Therapy
Address of college:	Coombe Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 4LZ
Telephone number:	01342 313655
Email address:	<a href="mailto:info@tobiasart.org">info@tobiasart.org</a>
Proprietor:	Tobias Trust Ltd
Name of Principal:	Gillian David
Licence number:	3MMY8EHA0
Type of college:	Private Further Education College

### Details of student body

Age range	24+
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Number on roll:		Male	Female
	Full Time:	0	40
	Part Time:	0	14
	Below 18	0	0

Annual fees:	From to £2,340 - £5,925 (full-time courses)
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### Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Jane Cooper
Dates of inspection:	19 March 2018	

This report has been prepared by the School Inspection Service (SIS), which provides independent professional inspection of colleges who offer education on offer to international students through Tier 4 of the points-based system for student visas. Further copies of the report are available from the college and on the SIS website: [www.schoolinspectionsservice.co.uk](http://www.schoolinspectionsservice.co.uk)