

Singapore Teaching Centre

Customer Charter

31 August 2021

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Our vision

Our vision is that the future for the UK depends on people of all cultures living and working together on foundations of education, mutual understanding, respect and trust.

Our vision

Our mission is to create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide.

By creating more opportunity and trust, we develop stronger long-term relationships for the UK and share and enrich its assets in English, the arts, education and society.

In Singapore, the work of the British Council includes teaching English to adults and young learners, teacher and corporate training, as well as a British Council Pre-school.

Our work also includes IELTS and other exams; providing the latest information about studying in the UK and on UK qualifications in Singapore; promoting British education and training; and demonstrating the innovation, creativity and excellence of British arts, literature and design.

Our values

Open and committed

Our belief in what we do translates into a deep and long-term commitment to the people we work with and the places where we work. We tackle challenges and take responsibility with openness and honesty to bring about positive change.

Expert and inclusive

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. By involving everyone in the conversation we learn from each other and bring together all of our experience, knowledge and expertise to do the best work that we can.

Optimistic and bold

We believe in the potential of young people to create a better world. Inspired by this optimism, we are positive and creative and we focus on what works. We are not afraid to make bold choices to shape a better future for everyone.

1 Registration and payment

By registering for our courses, customers agree to all the Terms and Conditions as outlined in the British Council (Singapore) Limited's Customer Charter.

1.1 Student contracts

All students registering for our courses are required to complete a registration form.

1.2 Payments

Payment can be made by direct bank transfer or over the counter by:

- Nets
- VISA/Mastercard
- Online Payment

The British Council (Singapore) Limited considers a late payment fee of \$100 to be charged 14 days after course commencement.

For the British Council Pre-School, Child Development Account (CDA) can be used for your child and/or their siblings if applicable. Payment should be completed before course commencement or late fees will be applied.

1.3 Discounts

Please approach our staff to find out about our latest promotions and offers. Discounts may be subject to minimum spending or for a fixed duration only.

For Professional Development Centre (PDC) conducted corporate workshops, there will be discounts apply for registered companies who pre-book a guaranteed number of participants for the same workshop on the same workshop date.

2 Behaviour

2.1 Positive Behaviour Policy

The British Council (Singapore) Limited operates the following positive behaviour policy:

- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be safe

We believe that these are core values which should be upheld by all students, staff and parents/caregivers. The British Council (Singapore) may take actions to ensure that a positive learning environment is upheld for the benefit of all learners, customers and staff.

The British Council (Singapore) will also ensure that our staff have the right to work in a safe, non-discriminatory environment that is free from verbal or physical abuse.

3 Safeguarding

The British Council (Singapore) Limited takes safeguarding seriously and we aim to provide a safe environment for children to study in. A child is defined by the United Nations Charter on the Rights of the Child as anyone below 18 years old. Policies in place include:

- Mobile Phone policy
- Intimate Care policy
- Age Policy

The British Council (Singapore) Limited:

- reserves the right to contact parents when we have concerns about a child's welfare (e.g. lack of supervision, behavioural, emotional or study issues)
- reserves the right to contact the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) or other agencies based upon reasonable concerns about a child's welfare
- reserves the right to remove students from classes where we have concerns about safety or welfare, behavioural, emotional and/or study issues
- reserves the right to remove students who demonstrate behaviour that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of others
- provides tablets, computers and other technology to be used for educational purposes and students will be required to follow the Learning Technologies Code of Conduct. Social media, gaming and other inappropriate uses are not permitted.

3.1 Drop off and pick up policy

While in class, the British Council (Singapore) Limited has 'Duty of Care' for your child.

For Child Protection purposes, we operate a clear policy for dropping off and picking up children from the centre. We ask that parents follow the policy laid out below:

- Nursery 1 to Kindergarten 2 students must arrive and leave their classroom accompanied by a parent/guardian. Parents/guardian should not leave their child unsupervised in our centres.
- Parents/guardians are expected to drop off and pick up their children on time. In the case of an emergency and parents/guardians are unable to do so, please contact the centre directly.
- In the event that a child has not been picked up, and the parents/guardian cannot be contacted the British Council (Singapore) Limited is required to contact local authorities.

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- All Primary 1 to Primary 4 students should not come to or leave our centres without supervision from a person who is at least 14 years old or older i.e. parent, guardian, family member, caregiver, etc.
 - The British Council (Singapore) Limited is not responsible for the safety of children who leave the premises without appropriate supervision,
 - If a child has to leave his/her class early, please request for an Early Release Form from our staff. Teachers may withhold children who do not have an Early Release Form.
 - To identify children by their age group, coloured lanyards with identification cards are used for all our Early Years, Primary and Secondary students. Please ask your child to use the issued lanyard when attending our classes. Parents/guardians may be asked to show their matching identification card to a member of staff when picking up their child. In the event the card cannot be produced, we will require additional identification for verification before the child can leave the centre.

3.2 Mobile phone, audio recording, photography and videographer policy

The British Council (Singapore) Limited operates the following policies:

- Unauthorised audio recording, videography or photography on the British Council (Singapore) Limited premises is prohibited.
- Mobile phones may only be used in class for educational reasons and with consent from the teacher.
- The publishing of any photographs, videos or audio recordings, taken on the British Council (Singapore) Limited's premises, to print or digital media without the written approval of all participants constitutes a breach of our Informed Consent and Child Protection policies and may result in prosecution.

For Safeguarding purposes, parents and children are expressly requested not to take photographs/publish photographs/audio recordings/videos to print or digital media during any of our classes or events without our written permission. We may contact you to remove said content from your media channels if we believe that they constitute a breach of our Child Protection policy.

3.3 Intimate care policy

For children aged between two and five years old, the British Council (Singapore) Limited has an Intimate Care Policy which safeguards the rights and well-being of children with regards to their dignity, privacy, choice and safety.

Intimate care involves helping children with aspects of personal care that they are not able to undertake on their own, either because of their age, maturity or ability. These include, but are not restricted to:

- Washing
- Toileting
- Dressing and undressing (including diaper changes)
- Applying creams/medicines provided by parents/guardians (e.g. topical medication, sun cream, etc)

If your child has specific intimate care requirements, please inform our staff in writing and we will communicate this directly to their teacher. However, please note in certain cases, we may not be able to accommodate specific care requirements.


When required, trained staff may undertake the changing of a child's clothing/diaper. Parents will be informed by staff as soon as possible via telephone or in person. For the British Council Pre-school students, up to two diaper changes can be expected a day. Parents will be informed if more diaper changes are required.

3.4 Age policy

- All Early Years Nursery 1 and 2 students must already be attending a nursery programme and must be toilet-ready.
- All British Council Pre-school, Nursery 2B students must be toilet-ready.
- International school students will be placed according to their academic ability instead of by age.
- We reserve the right to move children to a different level if we feel that they will benefit more from the new class.
- Secondary Plus, Secondary 4 and Secondary Foundation are considered Young Learner courses. This means that all students must be under 18 on 1 January of the year the course begins.
- Junior College classes are open to students between the ages of 16 and 18. However, in special circumstances, admission of older students will be considered.
- Any exceptions to the above will be made after discussion between the parents/guardian of the student and our management.

3.5 Offsite classes

An offsite class is a lesson arranged outside of any British Council (Singapore) Limited teaching centres. Offsite classes can be arranged upon request for private courses, subject to the British Council (Singapore) Limited approval.



Where the British Council (Singapore) Limited has arranged an offsite class, students are obliged to take full duty of care to ensure classes are arranged in an environment that is safe and conducive for learning. A full address and any entry requirements to an offsite class will have to be communicated in writing prior to the scheduled lesson.

Offsite classes need to be conducted in appropriate spaces. Teachers cannot take classes in bedrooms or any setting considered inappropriate by the British Council (Singapore). Where an offsite class location is deemed inappropriate, the lesson will be cancelled and a make-up class will be arranged at one of the British Council (Singapore) Limited Teaching Centres.

For offsite classes with young learners, aged under 18, there needs to be an adult, other than the teacher present at all times during the lesson. If there is not a responsible adult present, the British Council (Singapore) Limited reserves the right to cancel and arrange a makeup class.

4 Communication

4.1 Contact details

It is important that our student's, parents' or guardian's contact details are kept up-to-date in our system. Please ensure that mobile contact and email addresses are those of the parent's/guardian's if the student is below 18 years of age, or that of the student's if the student is 18 years of age or older.

Please contact our Sales and Customer Management staff if there are any updates to your contact details. Should we need to contact you urgently, we will do so by phone, email or SMS.

4.2 DNC provisions


The DNC Provisions, which became effective on 2 January 2014, introduce certain changes to the way in which we may send you promotional and marketing messages and call you via your Singapore telephone number(s). Marketing messages are those sent to individuals with the intention of advertising, promoting or offering to provide goods or services.

These changes will not affect sending other types of messages via your Singapore telephone number(s), such as informational and service-related messages, messages that are for business to business marketing, market survey or research or which promote charitable or religious causes, and personal messages sent by individuals.

4.3 Contacting you

The British Council (Singapore) Limited aims to comply with the requirements of the PDPA and respects your choices.

- If you have registered your telephone number with the Do Not Call (DNC) Registry, we will not send you promotional or marketing messages. However, if you have previously given consent allowing us to send you such messages via your telephone number, we will continue to do so until you withdraw your consent.
- If you currently have an existing, ongoing relationship with us, depending on the nature of that relationship, we may continue to send you promotional or marketing messages via SMS or fax about products and services which are related to that ongoing relationship notwithstanding your registration with the DNC Registry, unless you opt-out of receiving these messages.
- The British Council (Singapore) Limited will use the information that you provide for the administration of your English course in Singapore. We may use your information to send you details of our activities, services and events (including social events) which you might find of interest and for feedback on our services and market analysis. If you do not



wish to be contacted for these services, please [contact us](#) at +65 6473 1111 or speak to a member of our Sales and Customer Management team.

5 Data protection

5.1 Protecting your data

Under the terms of the United Kingdom's Data Protection Act 2018 and the Singapore Data Protection Act 2012, the British Council (Singapore) Limited is required by law to manage any personal data given to us securely and only for the purposes we have specified.

These are to:

- maintain integral academic and educational records of our students
- keep accurate financial records
- cater for any special needs our students may have
- protect the safety and well-being of the individual
- provide academic records to students' sponsors, where applicable
- contact students to update on our services or events
- contact students for their feedback on our services and for market analysis
- register students into our British Council (Singapore) Limited community
- inform our students about UK events and activities in Singapore
- comply with any legal or regulatory requirements.

5.2 Data protection, obligation and privacy notice

The British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator.

For detailed information, please refer to the privacy section of our website, www.britishcouncil.org/privacy or contact your local British Council office. We will keep your information for seven years from the time of collection.

6 Inclusion and special educational needs

6.1 Special education needs (SEND) policy

The British Council (Singapore) Limited is an inclusive organisation that welcomes students with learning difficulties or medical conditions. We aim to integrate SEND students into our mainstream classes, where possible, so that they can follow the curriculum and achieve the course learning objectives.

6.2 Voluntary medical/learning needs disclosure

The British Council (Singapore) Limited recognises that each student has his/her own individual needs. Our aim is to ensure that, as far as possible, students are consulted and involved in decisions about how their needs might be met. This involves talking to and listening to our students, including students under the age of 18, as it is their right that their views regarding their learning are properly considered. To help us do this, we request that the student complete a “Student Voice” questionnaire and, if you wish, to provide us with information on the student’s learning needs. This information will be used to formulate an Individual Education Plan for the student, enabling us to optimise our teaching methods to better suit you/your child. This information will only be shared with staff who will be working directly with the student.

Please approach our Sales and Customer Management staff for a disclosure form and for more information.

In some cases, we may not accept a student into our course because we are not able to provide consistent and sustainable support. The decision to not allow a student to register (or continue) is not made lightly and is based upon a consideration of all factors related to the individual case.

6.3 Inclusion and diversity policy

The British Council (Singapore) Limited is an inclusive organisation that attempts to offer classes to students of all backgrounds. However, we acknowledge that, at times, it is impossible to effectively support some students with specific needs in their studies. In these situations, we will not be able to offer our classes. We will then arrange a trial session to assess the potential to study with us. The outcome is then at the discretion of the management team.

Students should meet the entry requirements of the course. To best meet and support the student’s needs while on the course, we will need close dialogue between him/her (and parents, if applicable) and the teacher so that we can support their learning in the best possible way. Participation is also monitored to determine if the required level of support is possible.

Sometimes, it is not possible to offer a place for the student because they do not meet our entry requirements (e.g. literacy skills do not correspond with what is needed for students undertaking

that level of study). The decision is based on a student's English proficiency and learning needs.

Decisions related to SEND and a centre's ability to support the student's learning requirements will not be made in isolation. They will be made in consultation with multiple parties, including parents/ guardians, our Management, the Teacher and our Special Education Needs coordinator.

6.4 Our teachers

The British Council (Singapore) Limited is an equal opportunity employer. Teachers are recruited and assigned to classes based on the following criteria:

- their teaching skills
- English language proficiency
- teaching qualifications.

6.5 Teacher/Trainer-Student ratio

Courses/Workshops	Maximum Ratio
Nursery 1	1:4
Nursery 2	1:6
Kindergarten	1:8
Primary 1 Reading Development	1:8
Primary and Secondary	1:18
British Council Pre-school (Nursery)	1:6 or 1:7
British Council Pre-school (Kindergarten)	1:8
Part-time English Adults	1:16
Teacher Training	1:16
CELTA	1:6
PDC Corporate workshops (Public)	1:16
PDC Corporate workshops (In-house)	1:20

PDC Corporate workshops (Presentation and Training Skills)	1:12
PDC Corporate workshops (Online)	1:16
Study Camps (Early Years)	1:8
Study Camps (Primary and Secondary)	1:18
Online courses (Early Years)	1:8
Online courses (Primary/Secondary)	1:12

In exceptional circumstances, the British Council (Singapore) Limited reserves the right to increase the class capacity.

6.6 Public holidays

- Our centres are closed on official public holidays. A list of our closure dates is available on our website and upon request from our Sales and Customer Management staff.
- We will contact our students via SMS prior to public holidays or in times of emergencies to inform them of school closures. Please ensure that your mobile contact is up-to-date in our system.
- For Young Learner Enrichment and Adult courses, lessons missed due to public holidays will not be replaced. Fees will be pro-rated if more than 10% of the course registered for is affected by public holidays.
- For British Council Pre-school courses, lessons missed because they fall on public and school holidays will not be replaced.
- The British Council reserve the rights to change the class timing if the date of lesson falls on the eve of the Lunar New Year.

6.7 Parent-Teacher meetings (for nursery, primary and secondary enrichment and British Council pre-school)

Twice a year, the British Council (Singapore) Limited will organise Parent-Teacher meetings for our enrichment class and the British Council Pre-school parents to have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher and receive valuable feedback on their child's progress in class and for us to highlight any exemplary observations or to provide guidance and advice on how to support the student better.

7 Attending classes

7.1 Attendance policy

The student is required to attend all classes scheduled for the duration of the course registered. Attendance will be taken in class at the start of all lessons. Should the student arrive late to class, the student will be marked as late. Please inform the teacher immediately so that attendance can be recorded.

7.2 Mode of classes

Classes are conducted face to face unless specified. Face to face classes maybe converted to on-line classes on the following advice from the Government Agencies.

7.3 Make-up lessons (for early years, primary and secondary enrichment)

Make-up lessons may be requested in the following situations only:

- if the child is unwell, a medical certificate for the day of absence is required
- a scheduled school event in the child's school – the letter from the school specifying the date and time of the event is required
- a scheduled assessment with an external examination board – an examination appointment notice specifying the date and time of the event is required.

The arrangement of make-up lessons is subject to the following conditions:

- only one make-up lesson can be arranged in each term (ten weeks)
- make-up lessons will only be arranged upon receipt of documentary support
- content covered in the make-up lesson may be slightly different to the lesson missed as the progress of each class may differ slightly
- in the event a make-up lesson is not possible, the lesson overview and suggested activities will be sought from the teacher and given to the student to minimise the impact of having missed a lesson.

No refund, make-up class or alternative compensation will be given under any other circumstances for absences from the class by the student. This includes but not limited to truancy, other personal/school/ work commitments or due to circumstances beyond the control of the British Council. This includes but not limited to outbreak of riot, civil commotion, epidemic, natural disaster, unanticipated class disruption such as necessary building evacuation due to fire.

Class cancellations due to teacher sickness will be made up. If you are unable to attend the make-up class, no refund will be offered.

7.4 Awarding of certificate

Upon achieving 75% of attendance, certificates of attendance will be given to participants of the following courses:

- British Council Pre-school courses
- Part-time Adults courses
- Corporate workshops by Professional Development Centre (PDC)
- 10-hour and 20-hour courses by Teacher Development Centre (TDC)

If your certificate is lost or damaged, you can request a replacement within one year from the last date of your class. You can request a letter of attendance which is available for up to one year from the last date of your class.

Upon completion of the CELTA course, students will be awarded a Cambridge-issued Certificate if:

- they achieve 100% attendance for the course
- they obtain a pass to their CELTA course.

The CELTA certificate will be dispatched by Cambridge Assessment English within three months of completion of the course.

8 Feedback

We always welcome your feedback. If you would like to make a suggestion or compliment us on one of our products, services or members of staff, please send us your feedback using the [‘Contact us’](#) online form on our website. We will get back to you within three working days.

We will also ask for formal feedback from our students through our customer satisfaction surveys and focus groups.

If you have a concern about a specific aspect of our service, the first person to talk to would be your teacher. If you prefer to speak to one of our Managers, please approach our Sales and Customer Management staff or write into us and we will provide a final resolution within 21 working days.

The British Council (Singapore) Limited follows a global complaints resolution policy. The policy is a three-tiered system:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3 (Final stage)
Handled and resolved by	Branch Managers	Academic Management team	Global Complaints Manager
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To acknowledge within three working days or immediately for verbal complaints receivedTo resolve within ten working days	Within 21 working days	Within 30 working days

9 Withdrawals and refunds

Students who wish to withdraw from their course may do so with supporting documents and the refund of course fees is subject to the British Council (Singapore) Limited's Withdrawal/Refund Policy.

All refund requests must be done in writing and accompanied by the student's or parent's latest bank statement header (not more than three months old), showing the name of the bank, bank account number and bank/branch codes. Refunds will only be processed on receipt of these documents.

9.1 Refund policy for Young Learner Enrichment, British Council Pre-school, Study Camps, Adult Part-time, private courses and teacher training programmes

The British Council (Singapore) Limited will give all customers a minimum of three working days' notice if a course is cancelled before the Course Commencement Date.

	Condition	Refund Amount
Withdrawal due to non-delivery of course	The British Council (Singapore) Limited will give all customers a minimum of three working days' notice if a course is cancelled before the Course Commencement Date.	100% refund of course fees
Before course commencement	For Study Camps students who have made payment and are refused entry into Singapore	100% refund of course fees
	Request is made before the Course Commencement Date	75% refund of course fees
After course commencement	Request is made after the Course Commencement Date	No refund

9.2 Cancellation/postponement policy for public workshops from Professional Development Centre (PDC)

	Condition	Admin/ Penalty Charges
Before workshop commencement	More than 14 days before the Workshop Commencement Date	No charge
	Between one day and 14 days before the Workshop Commencement Date	20% charge
	Less than 24 hours before the Workshop Commencement Date	50% charge
On or after workshop commencement	Request is made on or after the Workshop Commencement Date	Full charge

9.3 Cancellation/postponement policy for in-house workshops from Professional Development Centre (PDC)

- Cancellation or postponement between ten and seven working days before a course, there will be a charge of 20% of the course fee.
- Cancellation or postponement between six and three working days before a course, there will be a charge of 50% of the course fee.
- Cancellation or postponement between two working days or less before a course, there will be a charge of 100% of the course fee.
- In addition, if the course involves a profiling tool or customisation which has been completed before cancellation, these items will be charged 100% as stated in the proposal.

9.4 Cancellation policy for private courses

More than 48 hours' notice	Lesson can be rescheduled
Less than 48 hours' notice	Lesson will be forfeited if notification is made less than 48 hours before the lesson, unless a valid medical certificate is presented that covers the day of the lesson.

Any notice to cancel or re-arrange a Private Course class must be submitted in writing to privatecourses@britishcouncil.org.sg, at least 48 hours before the arranged class.

Package validity:

- 10 hours – Three months from first lesson
- 20 hours – Six months from first lesson
- 30 hours – Nine months from first lesson
- 40 hours – 12 months from first lesson

Strictly no refund if contract validity date has expired.

9.5 Important notes on refund requests

Young Learner Enrichment, British Council Pre-School, Study Camps, Adult Part-time, Professional Development Workshops and Teacher Training courses are neither transferable nor refundable except when a course is cancelled.

Course books are non-refundable.

Upon receiving all required information and documents, the refund approval process will take no more than seven working days (Mondays to Fridays). Once approved, the refund will be made by direct-bank-transfer, within seven working days.

In some instances, the British Council (Singapore) Limited may remove a student from the course for academic or SEND reasons. In these situations, 100% of unconsumed fees will be refunded to the customer.

Our centres

	Address	Courses/Workshops offered
Napier Road Centre	30 Napier Road Singapore 258509	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English courses for adults• English courses for kids and teens• Study Camps• 1:1/Small group private lessons for adults, kids and teens• Off-site courses• Teacher Development courses
Tampines Centre	11 Tampines Concourse, #01-02/03/04 Singapore 528729	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English courses for kids and teens• Study Camps• 1:1/Small group private lessons for adults, kids and teens• British Council Pre-school
Toa Payoh Centre	480 Lorong 6 Toa Payoh, #09-01, HDB Hub East Wing Singapore 310480	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English courses for adults• English courses for kids and teens• Study Camps• 1:1/Small group private lessons for adults, kids and teens• Professional Development workshops• Teacher Development workshops

Contact us

[Send us a message](#)

+65 6473 1111

British Council (Singapore) Limited
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