



Closure of EC English language schools: English UK information for agent partners

15 September 2026

English UK is now supporting students affected by the closure of EC English's four UK schools in London, Cambridge, Brighton and Manchester.

We know agents are supporting students and families at this difficult time. This factsheet explains which students English UK can support, what agents and students need to do now, and how we will organise replacement courses

Which students can English UK support?

Our immediate priority is students who were already studying at an EC English school in the UK when it closed.

Through the Student Emergency Support (SES) scheme, eligible students may be offered a similar course at another accredited language centre at no additional cost. The replacement course may not be exactly the same as the student's original course. We will try to make it as similar as possible. Eligible students are those who had paid in full but not completed their courses on 14 September.

Unfortunately, we cannot help students who had not started their course when EC English closed.

We ask agents whose students had not yet started their courses to support them to find an alternative school. [English UK's language centre directory](#) can help agents find suitable options across the UK.

How are replacement courses being arranged?

English UK is coordinating replacement courses. We are working with accredited English language centres which are offering places to the EC students. We match students with suitable courses once we understand which courses, locations, start dates and places are available.

Please do not contact individual centres directly to arrange an SES placement. Our centralised approach means that we can assess students' circumstances, confirm available capacity and avoid confusion and conflicting information.

Can students request a particular school or location?

Agents and students may tell us about a preferred location or any circumstances they would like us to consider. When we place students, we will work to minimise disruption, including maintaining their current location where we can.

However, we cannot guarantee a particular school, town or city. Placements depend on course suitability, availability and the student's individual circumstances.

Students will normally receive one suitable placement offer. If a student refuses that offer, English UK will not be able to arrange another course free of charge.

What is happening with accommodation?

We understand from EC English that students currently staying in accommodation arranged through EC English can remain there until **Saturday 19 September 2026**.

Students may be able to remain in that accommodation after that date, but they will probably have to pay the accommodation provider directly, even if they have already paid EC English for their accommodation. English UK is working with accommodation providers to clarify the arrangements.

Agents and students should not assume existing accommodation will continue automatically. Please tell us immediately if:

- the student has been asked to leave their accommodation before 19 September
- the student has nowhere safe to stay after 19 September
- the student is under 18
- there is an immediate safeguarding or welfare concern
- the student needs help communicating with an accommodation provider

Limited temporary accommodation support may be available in emergency circumstances while other arrangements are made. This support is discretionary, is not guaranteed and is assessed according to the student's individual circumstances. We will prioritise supporting students under 18 and those facing immediate eviction.

What about visas?

A student's options may depend on their visa status:

- Students with an ETA or Standard Visitor Visa (SVV - six months) can normally transfer to another accredited centre
- Students with a Short-term Study Visa (STSV – 11 months) may need to leave the UK and obtain a new visa before continuing at their new school

Students should provide their visa type and expiry date when contacting English UK so that we can help them further.

Students should provide their visa type and expiry date when contacting English UK so that their circumstances can be considered.

Can English UK provide refunds?

No. The Student Emergency Support scheme may help eligible students continue their studies, but English UK cannot refund course or accommodation fees paid to EC English.

We will share administrator details with creditors of EC English when we have obtained them so that creditors can make a claim with them.

Contacting English UK

For enquiries about students who were already studying at an EC English school in the UK, email membership@englishuk.com. Please use the subject line: EC student support, [student's full name] / [EC school location].

We understand that students, families and agents are waiting for answers at a very difficult time. Thank you for your patience while we focus on helping eligible students find replacement courses. This may mean that we are not able to respond quickly to every individual enquiry.

English UK is contacting affected students directly by email. We will prioritise students who need the most immediate support and whose courses are finishing soon. It is important that students respond promptly and continue to check their email and phone every day.