

## ABLS partners with Child-Safe

17, September, 2014

ABLS Accreditation, the UK-based language school accreditation service, has entered into an assured partnership with Travel-Safe International, the educational and training division of the charity Child-Safe International.



The Travel-Safe Assured Partner Scheme is a specialist quality-assured safeguarding scheme open only to organisations operating within the youth travel sector.

The partnership means that once ABLS schools have successfully completed the inspection process or have been routinely re-inspected, the inspectorate will release the Travel-Safe logo as well as the ABLS quality assurance logo.

Agents and parents will find the additional quality assurance helpful when selecting a school, said Diana Lowe of ABLS Accreditation.

“Travel-Safe International has been at the forefront of efforts to safeguard and protect young people involved in educational, cultural or language trips overseas for ten years,” said Lowe. “The ABLS welfare and safeguarding criteria mirror those of Travel-Safe and so ABLS invited Travel-Safe to shadow the work of their inspectors.”

A further benefit for ABLS schools is a helpline facility with access to specialist staff who can advise, support or give guidance on safeguarding or crime-related matters in respect of clients or staff. The schools will also benefit from a supportive quality assurance programme working to improve safety, welfare, pastoral care and safeguarding.

“Safeguarding is a global matter and as quality assurers of English language schools, we are pleased to be leading the way in the UK. In time we are sure other study and youth travel organisations will also get involved,” said Lowe.

Dave Grimstead of Travel-Safe and Sue Harris, the ABLS Chief Inspector, will be leading a seminar at the forthcoming ICEF Berlin conference.

ABLS Accreditation is one of the bodies approved by the government to accredit language schools recruiting non-EU students applying for student visitor visas.