

Safer communities overseas

COBIS/ICPC

The number of International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC) applications received and processed by ACRO dropped due to the Covid pandemic and countries closing their borders.

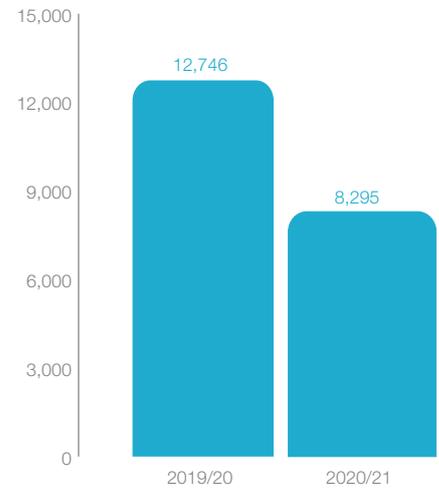
As travel opportunities have started to open up and overseas British language schools have started recruiting again the service is making a gradual recovery.

The main reason for the drop in numbers is a reduction in the number of students working in summer camps in the USA and Canada. Camp America, for example, reduced their workforce by 50%.

ACRO has used this time to look at ways of expanding the ICPC product to protect vulnerable adults as well as children in the future.

We continue to work closely with the Council of British International Schools (COBIS), the ICPC Global Ambassador, and our partnership with them has seen ACRO take part in a number of webinars, newsletters and blogs aimed at promoting the safety of children in British language schools overseas.

ICPC applications



“” Testimonial from a COBIS affiliated school: **‘The benefits of the ICPC are obvious’**

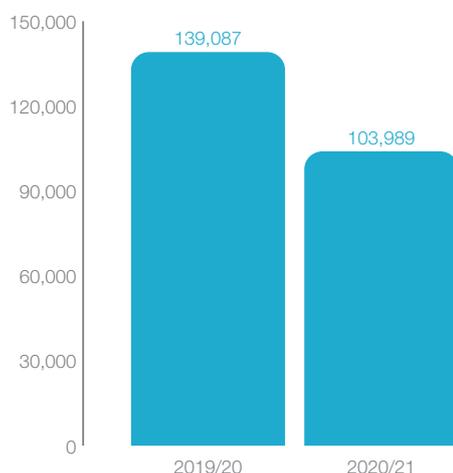
“Every day we follow our safer recruitment procedure and thoroughly ensure that we have the checks done during our pre-hiring process. This is done mainly for the welfare of the children enrolled in school.

“The ICPC clearly states the criminal check for a potential employee – the safety of the children and the staff will be ensured through this. It is significant in supporting the recruitment process. Information on the ICPC has resulted in further questions to several applicants, which has led to valuable pre-recruitment discussions. The ICPC has also changed a recruitment decision on at least one occasion in the past 12 months.

“The benefits of the ICPC are obvious: establishing the person’s suitability to work with children.”

Mariuca Cremene, HR Generalist at the British School of Bucharest (BSB)

Police Certificate applications



Overseas secondments

- ACRO maintained support for the five-year Project Soteria designed to tackle sexual abuse in the aid sector. A member of staff was seconded to Interpol in Lyon where they were able to provide support in the delivery of products and services to help bridge the gap between the aid sector and law enforcement. The project, which joins ACRO with Interpol, the UK’s Department for International Development and Save the Children, will ensure that vulnerable adults and children across the world are not subjected to abuse or exploitation.
- Despite exiting the EU and the worldwide pandemic, we continued our secondment programme with Europol. This has strengthened our relationship and helped us prevent offenders from hiding their overseas conviction history.