

# Post-16 Reforms Funding Guide

April 2026



# What are the changes?

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**In October 2025, the Post-16 Education and Skills white paper set out plans for reform in England. Since then, the Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed further details, including updates published on 10 March 2026.**

These changes affect 16–19 learners studying Level 2 and Level 3 programmes in England. The aim is to simplify vocational and technical education.

All 16–19 vocational qualifications at these levels will lose funding. They will be replaced by new qualifications through a phased approach until 2030/31. Legacy qualifications will continue to be funded until their replacements are introduced.

**Adult skills funding is unaffected by the reforms.**

# What are the new qualifications?



The reforms introduce four new qualification types. Two are at Level 2 and two are at Level 3. Qualifications are classed as technical or vocational, depending on how they link to occupational standards.

Level	Qualification	Vocational/Technical	GLH	Programme length	Progression to
Level 2	Foundation certificate	Vocational	240-300	1 year	T Levels, V Levels or A levels
Level 2	Occupational certificate	Technical	Depends on standard size	2 years	Skilled employment
Level 3	V Level	Vocational	360	2 years	Related higher education or an apprenticeship
Level 3	T Level	Technical	1080	2 years	Related higher education, apprenticeships, or skilled employment

# When are the new qualifications launching?



Here we have reduced the DfE's timetable down to just show current NCFE subjects.

Year	Occupational certs	Foundation certs	V Levels	New T Levels
27/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and Early Years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and Early Years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and Early Years</li> </ul>	N/A
28/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and Administration</li> <li>Care Services</li> <li>Health and Science</li> <li>Sports and Leisure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business, Administration and Law</li> <li>Care Services</li> <li>Health and Science</li> <li>Sports, Fitness and Exercise Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and Administration</li> <li>Care Services</li> <li>Health and Science</li> <li>Sports, Fitness and Exercise Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care Services</li> <li>Sports, Fitness and Exercise Science</li> </ul>
29/30	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protective Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protective Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protective Services</li> </ul>
30/31	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel and Tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel and Tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel and Tourism</li> </ul>

N.B. This timetable only shows the occupational routes in which qualifications will be launched, not the actual subject names. There could be multiple subjects contained in a route (e.g. Protective Services could contain Uniformed Services and Criminology) or subjects could span several routes (e.g. Health and Social Care could be a V Level that spans both the 'Health and Science' and 'Care Services' routes).



# When will the defunding happen?



**NCFE currently offer a wide range of qualifications for 16–19 study programmes. In the below breakdown, we will cover those qualifications designed specifically for these programmes.**

It is important to note that the [Find a Learning Aim](#) database will not reflect final funding dates. This is because it updates annually and does not currently show dates beyond 2027.

# Education and Early years



Level	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	GLH	Funded for new starts in:				
				26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Level 2	600/0336/4	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate Introducing Caring for Children and Young People	117	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Level 2	603/3477/0	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma Introducing Caring for Children and Young People	309	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Level 2	603/5937/7	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary Settings	210	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Level 2	610/4587/1	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma)	293	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Level 2	610/4588/3	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma)	348	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	610/5748/4	T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years (Level 3) (delivered by NCFE)	920	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Health and Social Care



Level	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	GLH	Funded for new starts in:				
				26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Level 2	601/4128/1	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Working in the Health Sector	120	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 2	601/8854/6	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Health and Social Care	180	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 2	601/8855/8	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care	360	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/6110/3	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care	1185	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8435/8	NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care	1189	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	610/6200/5	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Social Care (Diploma)	1080	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

# Business



Level	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	GLH	Funded for new starts in:				
				26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Level 2	601/2624/3	NCFE Level 2 Diploma in Skills for Business	360	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/2652/8	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Skills for Business: Sales and Marketing	561	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/2649/8	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Skills for Business: Human Resources	540	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/2647/4	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Skills for Business: Enterprise	540	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

# Sport



Level	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	GLH	Funded for new starts in:				
				26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Level 2	603/3931/7	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Gym Instructing	295	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 2	601/3037/4	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Sport	180	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 2	601/3038/6	NCFE Level 2 Diploma in Sport	290	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	603/4388/6	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Gym Instructing and Personal Training	425	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	603/3491/5	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Personal Training	309	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8877/7	NCFE Level 3 Introductory Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity	180	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8878/9	NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity	360	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8881/9	NCFE Level 3 Diploma (540) in Sport and Physical Activity	540	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8882/0	NCFE Level 3 Diploma (720) in Sport and Physical Activity	720	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8883/2	NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity	1080	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

# Uniformed Services



Level	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	GLH	Funded for new starts in:				
				26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Level 2	601/2456/8	NCFE Level 2 Diploma for Entry to the Uniformed Services	370	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8790/6	NCFE Level 3 Introductory Certificate for Entry to the Uniformed Services	180	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8791/8	NCFE Level 3 Certificate for Entry to the Uniformed Services	360	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8792/X	NCFE Level 3 Diploma for Entry to the Uniformed Services (540)	540	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8793/1	NCFE Level 3 Diploma for Entry to the Uniformed Services (720)	720	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	601/8794/3	NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma for Entry to the Uniformed Services	1080	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	603/5032/5	NCFE Level 3 Introductory Certificate in Policing	180	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	603/5036/2	NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Policing	360	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	603/5038/6	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Policing (540)	540	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	603/5040/4	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Policing (720)	720	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Level 3	603/5041/6	NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Policing	1080	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

# Travel and Tourism



Level	Qualification Number	Qualification Title	GLH	Funded for new starts in:				
				26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31
Level 2	600/0474/5	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Introduction to Cabin Crew	153	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 2	600/7817/0	NCFE Level 2 Award for Resort Representatives	70	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 2	501/1281/8	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Aviation Operations on the Ground (Knowledge)	108	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 2	601/8996/4	NCFE Level 2 Diploma in Aviation	310	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 2	601/6266/1	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Travel and Tourism	240	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 2	601/6267/3	NCFE Level 2 Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism	360	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 2	601/6268/5	NCFE Level 2 Diploma in Travel and Tourism	480	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 3	603/4140/3	NCFE Level 3 Introductory Certificate in Travel and Tourism	180	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 3	603/4141/5	NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Travel and Tourism	360	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 3	601/7934/X	NCFE Level 3 Introductory Diploma in Travel and Tourism	540	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 3	601/7935/1	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Travel and Tourism	720	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Level 3	601/7936/3	NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism	1080	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗