

# Qualification Purpose Statement

## Qualification title

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools [501/0476/7]

## What does this qualification cover?

This qualification provides you with the core knowledge and skills needed when providing specialist support for children and/or young people in primary, secondary or special schools.

You will need to complete 11 mandatory units and approximately 3-4 optional units to achieve this qualification. The mandatory units are:

- Communication and professional relationships with children, young people and adults
- Schools as organisations
- Support learning activities
- Promote children and young people's positive behaviour
- Develop professional relationships with children, young people and adults
- Promote equality, diversity and inclusion in work with children and young people
- Support assessment for learning
- Understand child and young person development
- Understand how to safeguard the well-being of children and young people
- Support children and young people's health and safety
- Engage in personal development in health, social care or children's and young people's settings.

A broad range of optional units provides you with an opportunity to specialise in specific subjects or develop your knowledge and skills in areas of particular interest. These include (but are not limited to):

- Invigilating tests and examinations
- Supporting literacy and numeracy development
- Supporting delivery of the 14 – 19 curriculum
- Supporting children's speech, language and communication
- Supporting disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs
- Supporting learners with sensory and/or physical needs
- Improving the attendance of children and young people in statutory education

- Promoting the well-being and resilience of children and young people
- Supporting young people in relation to sexual health and risk of pregnancy
- Supporting young people who are socially excluded or excluded from school.

The optional units make the Diploma ideal should you wish to pursue a career in a specialised area of support work within schools in an unsupervised role.

Completion of this qualification is achieved through a combination of classroom-based learning and experience in the workplace.

All the units within this qualification are vocationally based, directly helping you gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required when working directly with children or young people, in both general and specialised roles, in school environments.

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification but you will need to be at least 16 years of age.

This qualification will take approximately 12-18 months to complete.

### What knowledge and skills will this qualification give you?

Completion of this qualification will equip you with the essential knowledge and skills required to work in an unsupervised specialist support role within a school setting, including special schools, for example:

- planning and preparing for learning activities
- using assessment strategies to promote learning
- responding to challenging behaviour
- managing risks to health, safety and security in a work setting and off-site visits.

### Is this qualification right for you?

This qualification is ideal if you are currently working in an unsupervised role that supports pupils' learning, including specialist roles, or if you are interested in entering the workforce in roles including teaching assistants, learning support assistants or similar roles at level 3.

This qualification is ideal for you if you have already completed the Level 2 or Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools, as you will already have an understanding of the unit subject matter; undertaking the Level 3 Diploma will allow you to build on this knowledge and apply it in real work settings, including special schools.

You will need to be working, volunteering or on practical placement as you will need to show competence in both knowledge and skills.

## Why should you take this particular qualification?

You should take this qualification if you want to work in an unsupervised capacity in job roles where you will work directly with children or young people in a school environment, including in special schools. It is ideal for you if you have previous experience or qualifications in this subject area and want to work in unsupervised job roles that require greater responsibility than at level 2, or in specialist areas of supporting teaching and learning. It will equip you with the knowledge and skills to provide a broad range of curriculum-based learning and specialist support (e.g. providing one-to-one support for a child).

There is a smaller Level 3 Award in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools, which provides an introduction to the themes of the Diploma. The Award is more suitable for learners who have no prior knowledge of the subject area but who are able to start at a higher level due to previous experience or study in a related area e.g. childcare.

There is also a smaller Level 3 Certificate, which provides you with the core knowledge and skills required when working directly with children or young people in a school environment, and is therefore ideal for you if you have previous experience or qualifications in this subject area.

You should take the Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools if you want to specialise in a specific area within schools e.g. special educational needs or pastoral care, rather than work in more general support roles within schools, as the Diploma contains optional units, providing you with the opportunity to specialise or develop knowledge and skills in these areas.

## What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification provides you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to work unsupervised in a variety of level 3 roles that support children and young people's learning in schools, including specialist roles, such as:

- Teaching assistant
- Learning support assistant
- Special needs assistant.

If you are looking to continue studying after completion of this qualification, the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools provides you with the knowledge and skills related to working with children and young people in a variety of school settings to study towards achieving Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) status. Due to the school environment in which you are or will be working, the Diploma could also allow you to study towards achieving Early Years Teacher status.

### Who supports this qualification?

The Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools is supported by the following employers:

- Bradford College
- Our Lady of Lincoln Catholic Primary School
- Preston Grange Primary School
- Sir John Thursby Community College
- St Francis School
- Walker Primary School