



L2 Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools

Your questions answered

How long is the course?

11 months, from September to July the following year

What is a certificate qualification?

A certificate shows you have mastered an area of study and confirms you have all the knowledge you need for the next level of your career or further education.

What work can I do once I have the qualification?

You may go straight into a variety of support roles in schools or learning providers, or you may choose to progress to higher level qualifications in the same area.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is through an electronic portfolio and a school visit.

What units do you study in the course?

The course covers the following 11 units:

- Child and young person development
- Communication and professional relationships with children, young people and adults
- Equality, diversity and inclusion in work with children and young people
- Help improve own and team practice in schools
- Maintain and support relationships with children and young people
- Provide displays in schools
- Safeguarding the welfare of children and young people
- Schools as organisations
- Support children and young people's health and safety
- Support children and young people's positive behaviour
- Support learning activities

Is it free?

The course is free for anyone aged 19 or over living in the Cheshire West and Chester borough and earning less than £26,800 per year.

Do I have to provide any evidence of previous qualifications?

You will need to provide proof of Level 2 in English and maths. This can be through GCSE certificates Grades A-C/4-9 (or the equivalent). You will still be eligible to join the course if you are working towards this level or if you complete assessments at a Skills and Employment Hub.



Do I need to complete an application form, and if so, where do I get it from?

Email your nearest Skills and Employment Hub to request an application form and complete a registration.

How many hours do I need to work in a school or nursery setting during the course?

6 hours per week minimum.

Do I get paid for the 6 hours?

No, but the school can choose to employ you part way through the course.

What if I can't do 6 hours a week?

During your application, inform the Hub and they will refer you to the tutor to discuss.

Do I need to find my own placement?

Ideally yes, your tutor can support if needed.

How do I find a placement?

Email schools in your local area. An email template is [available for you to copy](#). Email addresses can be found on school websites.

How should I approach schools about placements?

Be professional and polite as you are asking about work. As you will be in an education role, remember to check your email carefully for spelling and grammar. We have prepared an email template you can use.

Can I join the course if I am already employed as a TA?

Yes. However, if you work full-time you would need to take time off to attend the face to face teaching sessions.

Can I continue the course if I get a job part way through?

Yes

Where do the face to face sessions take place?

Skills and Employment Hubs in Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford.

Can you choose where to attend the face to face sessions?

Yes, but ideally you should choose the closest Hub .

What if I work and cannot make all teaching sessions or need to leave early?

Email your tutor as soon as possible. The tutor will offer support online. All assignments are sent via email after each face to face teaching session.



Do I need a DBS check?

If you are supporting groups unsupervised the school will request an enhanced check. Speak to the school staff or read more about the [DBS check application process for volunteers](#).

Does the school pay for my DBS?

Yes. Schools pay for the DBS check but will be reimbursed by Skills and Employment.

How long are the face to face teaching sessions?

2 to 3 hours, followed by optional one-to-one support as needed.

Do I need to use any IT equipment during the course?

You need a laptop with MS Word and email. If you have any difficulty purchasing one, Hub staff can assist you. Please bring your laptop with you to all face to face teaching sessions. There is an optional session at the start of the course to teach you the IT skills needed.

Does the tutor visit me during my placement?

Yes, the tutor will visit for one morning in the spring term to observe you in your role and provide support where necessary.

Does the Hub offer additional training and support during the year?

Yes, there is a wide range of additional training offered, including L3 First Aid, Safeguarding, Digital Safeguarding, Neurodiversity, and L2 Understanding Learning Difficulties. The tutor can also provide training in Phonics and Early Reading and Writing.

The Hubs also provide support with writing CVs, interview skills, IT skills and English/maths.

What happens if I get a job during the year and can't attend the teaching sessions?

Inform your tutor as soon as possible. If your new job is not in the school, the hours on your placement must continue. If the job is as a TA, paid hours can be used as the placement hours.

Does the tutor provide references to employers?

Yes.

Does the tutor help learners to find work?

Yes, the tutor provides links to Council jobs and details of different supply agencies.

Are learners successful in gaining employment as a Teaching Assistant?

Yes. In each cohort of learners since 2022 a majority gained employment either during or at the end of the course. In 2026 alone, 19 of the 26 learners gained employment in schools.