

Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning

Location	Altrincham Campus
Course Type	Adult
Department	Childcare & Education
Start Date	Wednesday 11th February 2026
Duration	Part-time, 1 Year
Time	17:30 - 21:00
Fee	£ 2285.00 You may be eligible for support with your tuition fees - please visit the college website - funding and finance page for further information
Course Code	APQ-AY3D-1100

Course Overview

This qualification provides learners with an in-depth understanding of the knowledge and skills needed, when working directly with children and young people in school and college environments. It covers all aspects of specialist support including planning, delivering and reviewing assessment strategies to support learning alongside the teacher; bilingual support; special needs support; and personal development and reflective practice.

Course Requirements

All prospective learners will undertake an informal interview and complete a skills scan & initial assessment.

As learners need to show competence in both skills and knowledge, they will need to be working or be on a voluntary placement during the taught programme of study in a learning environment, such as a school or college setting.

What You Will Learn

In this course, you will learn comprehensive skills and knowledge relevant to working within educational settings. Key areas of study include understanding the structure and functions of schools and colleges as organisations, ensuring health and safety in learning environments, and safeguarding children and young people. Additionally, you will develop strategies for building professional relationships with children, young people, and adults, as well as gaining insight into child development processes. The course covers supporting positive behaviour, facilitating learning activities, and promoting English, Maths, and ICT skills. You will also learn about assessment techniques, personal and professional development, and supporting speech, language, and communication needs. Special attention is given to supporting bilingual learners, those with special educational needs and disabilities, and aiding transitions. Finally, the course delves into the importance of play, leisure, and extra-curricular activities for the holistic development of children and young people.

Assessment

You will complete a competence-based assessment and produce a portfolio, that include assignments and practical assessments. All units will be internally assessed using a range of methods. Skills based outcomes must be achieved, with reference to a real work environment and must include direct observation within the workplace.

Progression

Successful students may progress to a higher level:

- Level 4 Certificate for the Advanced Practitioner in Schools and Colleges
- Foundation Degree (FdA) in Education and Learning Support

Career Options

This qualification provides you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to work in a variety of unsupervised job roles that support children and young people's learning in schools or colleges. Roles this qualification will prepare you for include:

Teaching Assistant: Many graduates pursue roles as teaching assistants in primary, secondary, or special educational needs (SEN) schools. They work closely with teachers to support students' learning and development, provide one-on-one assistance to students who require additional help, and assist with classroom management and administrative tasks.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Assistant: Graduates may choose to specialize in supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by working as SEN teaching assistants. In this role, they provide tailored support to students with diverse learning needs, implement Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and facilitate inclusive learning environments.

Learning Support Assistant: Learning support assistants provide academic and pastoral support to students who require extra assistance to reach their full potential. They may work in mainstream schools, alternative provision settings, or further education colleges, helping students with a wide range of abilities and needs.

Behaviour Support Assistant: Some graduates opt for roles as behaviour support assistants, where they work with students who exhibit challenging behaviour or emotional difficulties. They implement behaviour management strategies, provide social and emotional support, and collaborate with other professionals to create positive learning environments.

Nursery Assistant: For those interested in early years education, a Level 3 Diploma can lead to roles as nursery assistants or early years practitioners in nursery settings. They support children's learning and development through play-based activities, assist with daily routines, and maintain a safe and stimulating environment.

Family Support Worker: Graduates may also explore opportunities as family support workers, providing practical and emotional support to families with children experiencing difficulties at home or in school. They may work for local authorities, charities, or community organisations, offering guidance, advocacy, and signposting to relevant services.

Overall, completing a Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning equips individuals with the skills, knowledge, and qualifications needed to embark on a rewarding career journey within the education sector, making a positive impact on the lives of children and young people.

Mandatory Units

To achieve this qualification, learners will need to complete the 16 mandatory units below:

- Schools and colleges as organisations
- Support health and safety in a learning environment
- Understand how to safeguard children and young people
- Develop professional relationships with children, young people and adults
- Understand how children and young people develop
- Support positive behaviour in children and young people
- Support children and young people during learning activities
- Support English and Maths Skills
- Support the use of ICT in the learning environment
- Support assessment for learning
- Engage in personal and professional development
- Support children and young people's speech, language and communication
- Understand how to support bilingual learners
- Understand how to support learning of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Support children and young people during transitions
- Support the role of play, leisure and extra-curricular activities for children and young people

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.