



Department  
for Education

# Post-16 qualifications reform at level 3 and below newsletter

## ACTION



- **RESPOND to our survey:** This survey will help us understand what you know about Qualifications Reform, the new qualifications available from August 2025 onwards and how we can develop resources to support you further. The deadline for this is 16 May 2025.
- **DOWNLOAD** a timeline which shows which qualifications will be available and how long they will be available for.
- **VISIT** our provider webpages.
- **STAY INFORMED** by signing up to our mailing list here and reply to this email to make suggestions about what you would like to see in future newsletters.
- **CONTACT US** via our email.

NOT SURE ABOUT  
NEW LEVEL 3  
QUALIFICATIONS  
AVAILABLE FROM 1  
AUGUST 2025?  
**[CLICK HERE](#)**

### NEWS: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT REVIEW INTERIM REPORT

On 18 March 2025 the Curriculum and Assessment Review published an interim report.

The report does not contain any recommendations but shares initial findings and areas it wants to explore ahead of making conclusions its final report in the autumn.

Keeping in line with the aim of evolution, not revolution, further work in the Post 16 area will include exploring level 2 and 3 pathways at Post-16, with special attention to vocational routes and support for progression.

The National Professional Qualification (NPQ) Policy team are leading a review of the NPQ programme and have launched a Call for Evidence on the following NPQs: Headship (NPQH), Senior Leadership (NPQSL) and Executive Leadership (NPQEL). Use the link if you would like to submit evidence for the review [NPQ Call For Evidence](#).





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**HOT TOPIC– in this month's newsletter we wanted to shine a light on the qualifications that will be available in the Education and Early years route from 2025, as well as provide links to helpful resources and further information to support your curriculum and pathway planning.**

### Pathways in Education and Early Years

The qualifications landscape in Education and Early years offers a variety of pathways to pursue careers in this sector, giving learners the flexibility to choose what works best for their ambitions and learning style– whether that's through T Levels, Apprenticeships, Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) or Reformed Technical qualifications.

Throughout the Review of Qualifications Reform, we heard strong support for the T Level in Education and Early Years. As planned, funding for existing large and medium qualifications in this route (421+ guided learning hours) will be removed in 2025, making the T Level the primary option for those studying a large qualification in this field.

To support specific roles like teaching assistants, funding for six smaller qualifications will continue, offering a flexible alternative that could be combined with other studies. These will remain funded through 2025–26, after which A levels, T Levels, and reformed qualifications are expected to meet learners' needs. You can view the retained qualifications by clicking [this link](#).

Looking ahead, alongside the commitment to T Levels, the qualification reform process continues. We are expecting Awarding organisations to submit reformed level 3 qualifications in key areas, with these new qualifications ready for teaching from 1 August 2026.

Now is a great opportunity to consider delivering T Levels, or to grow your T Level provision, as they remain central to qualifications reform, forming the large technical qualification of choice at level 3 in the routes they are available. These changes are designed to help learners succeed– whether they're heading into skilled work or progressing to higher education– by providing clear, high-quality pathways into this important sector.

A job in early years and childcare is unique and rewarding– by being part of a child's early education and helping to shape their future. There are lots of different types of roles where learners can be part of seeing children grow, learn and flourish.

**CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW TO FIND OUT MORE**

[Learner pathways in Education and Early years](#)

[Level 3 qualification pathways in Education and Early years](#)

[Progression Pathways in Education and Early years](#)

[2025 landscape Education and Early years \(level 3 and above\)](#)

