

Foundation



Entry Level / Level 1 Foundation

Expressive Arts

Teaching from September 2027

Quick Guide



Please note that all information included in our Quick Guides is subject to approval from Qualifications Wales.

Made for Wales.
Ready for the world.

Empowering learners, supporting teachers

As Wales' largest awarding body, we have over 75 years of experience in delivering trusted, high-quality qualifications that support learners, educators, and employers across Wales.

We provide a wide range of bilingual qualifications that are accessible, engaging, and designed to meet the needs of today's learners.

Our qualifications are backed by expert subject teams, high quality resources, and responsive, specialist support. Our work is guided and shaped through close collaboration with schools, colleges, regional consortia, sector experts and Qualifications Wales.

As the only awarding body offering qualifications in every suite of the 14-16 National Qualifications offer, we are proud to play a key role in supporting the Welsh Government's ambition to make education in Wales a source of national pride, and we remain committed to helping every learner achieve their potential and progress with confidence.





General Foundation Qualifications: A strong foundation for future success

Our General Foundation Qualifications are designed to inspire and support learners, offering a two-year programme that is accessible and engaging.

These qualifications help learners build confidence, develop essential knowledge, understanding and skills, and enjoy meaningful success.

A key feature of our General Foundation Qualifications is their unitised structure, allowing learners to complete some assessments in Year 10 and others in Year 11. This flexible approach supports steady progression, reduces assessment pressure, and gives learners the opportunity to demonstrate achievement throughout the course.

The compensatory nature of our General Foundation Qualifications recognises learners' strengths across different units. Rather than requiring uniform performance in every area, this approach allows high achievement in one unit to offset lower performance in another, promoting an inclusive and supportive assessment experience.

Our General Foundation Qualifications build on the conceptual understanding learners have developed through their Curriculum for Wales learning from ages 3-14, and relate to and support the four purposes and the principles of progression. Although very distinct from GCSEs, we have designed them to provide a broad basis for progression onto our related GCSEs by focussing on similar skills and understanding.

Whether learners continue in the subject or not, they will gain valuable knowledge, understanding and skills, and a sense of accomplishment that prepares them for life, learning, and work.

See our full range of General Foundation qualifications:
www.wjec.co.uk/wave3



About the General Foundation Qualification in Expressive Arts

The qualification will include the following subjects:

- Art and Design
- Dance
- Digital Media and Film
- Drama
- Music

Through the creative process, this qualification allows learners to explore and respond to various contexts and to reflect on their own work while engaging in rich, authentic experiences.

Learners will develop an understanding of how the expressive arts communicate through visual, physical, verbal, musical and technological means whilst drawing upon their own experiences, skills and talents.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for learners between 14-16 who are working at Entry 1 to Level 1 in expressive arts.

It will build on the conceptual understanding learners have developed through their Curriculum for Wales learning from ages 3-14. It also relates to and supports the four purposes and the principles of progression.

The qualification will provide a broad basis for progression onto GCSEs in related subjects by focussing on similar skills and understanding.

What does the qualification cover?

Unit	Focus
1. Discovering the work of others	In this unit, learners will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• explore a range of expressive art forms• reflect on and evaluate the work of others, from at least two of the expressive arts subject areas.
2. Developing my own ideas	In this unit, learners will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop creative skills and respond to a stimulus linked to one expressive arts subject area• reflect on the effectiveness of their own artistic choices.
3. Showcasing my skills	In this unit, learners will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop their practical skills individually and/or as part of a group, linked to one or more expressive arts subject areas.

Summary of Assessment

Unit	Focus
1	<p data-bbox="312 450 895 488">Discovering the work of others</p> <p data-bbox="312 555 922 645">Flexible Duration 25 Marks - 25% of Qualification</p> <p data-bbox="312 712 1374 853">Exploration and reflection on the work of others, from at least two of the expressive arts subject areas (marked by WJEC).</p> <p data-bbox="312 920 1385 1061">Learners will reflect on and evaluate their chosen works and present their work for assessment in a format of their choice.</p>
2	<p data-bbox="312 1128 799 1167">Developing my own ideas</p> <p data-bbox="312 1234 1326 1323">Flexible, duration dependent on the art form selected 25 Marks - 25% of Qualification</p> <p data-bbox="312 1391 1289 1532">Practical assessment and reflective log linked to one expressive arts subject area (marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC).</p> <p data-bbox="312 1599 1374 1688">Learners will develop their own original work in response to a chosen stimuli.</p> <p data-bbox="312 1756 1273 1845">Learners will reflect and evaluate their own creative choices in a Reflective Log.</p>

Summary of Assessment

Unit	Focus
3	<p data-bbox="312 450 710 488">Showcasing my skills</p> <p data-bbox="312 555 1326 645">Flexible duration, dependent on the art form selected 40 Marks - 50% of Qualification</p> <p data-bbox="312 712 1398 846">Practical assessment linked to one or more expressive arts subject areas (marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC).</p> <p data-bbox="312 913 1023 1003">Learners will develop and display their practical/performance skills.</p>

“Our General Foundation Qualifications are designed to inspire confidence and celebrate progress.

Through flexible, inclusive assessment and meaningful learning, they empower every learner to achieve success and develop a strong foundation for future learning, life and work.

Our teams are here to support you as you get ready to deliver these exciting new qualifications, providing personalised guidance and assistance to help you teach with confidence.”

Delyth Jones

Regional Support
Team Leader



Need more support?

Our Regional Representative **Sophie Dobbs** is available to support your centre to deliver these exciting new qualifications:

“ I work closely with schools and colleges across Wales, helping them understand the new Wave 3 qualifications that are coming as part of National 14-16 Qualifications reform in September 2027.

I'm here to support centres at every stage of the journey — from early conversations and planning, right through to delivery.

Before starting at WJEC I spent 17 years in secondary education. Having that experience, and a clear understanding of the practical challenges senior leaders face around staffing, timetabling, resources and budgets, means I'm well placed to support centres strategically and practically through the Wave 3 transition.”

Get in touch with Sophie:
wave3@wjec.co.uk



The final wave of new National 14-16 Qualifications for Wales is almost here, with first teaching beginning September 2027.

We're building upon everything we've learned from co-creating our Made-for-Wales GCSEs, engaging with over 100 centres and 60+ employers to develop an inclusive, broad and balanced range of new qualifications that will enable different ways of learning and skills development.

Discover a range of inclusive new qualifications with WJEC, Wales' most established exam board:

- **Personal Project**
- **Skills Suite (Skills for Life and Skills for Work)**
- **Foundation (General and Work Related)**
- **VCSE (Vocational Certificate of Secondary Education)**

Learn more: www.wjec.co.uk/wave3



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