

Foundation



Entry Level/Level 1 Work Related Foundation  
**Health and Social Care,  
and Childcare**

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.



# Work Related Foundation Qualifications: **A strong foundation for future success**

Our Work Related Foundation Qualifications (WRFQs) are designed to inspire and support learners, offering a two-year programme that is accessible, engaging, and rooted in real-world learning.

With a strong emphasis on practical activities and hands-on experience, these qualifications help learners build confidence, develop essential skills, and enjoy meaningful success.

A key feature of our WRFQs 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 WRFQs 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 a more inclusive and supportive assessment experience.

With content that is relevant, motivating, and tailored to learners' needs, our WRFQs provide a solid foundation for post-16 study.

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

See our full range of WRFQs: [www.wjec.co.uk/wave3](http://www.wjec.co.uk/wave3)

# About the Work Related Foundation Qualification in Health and Social Care, and Childcare

Health, social care, and childcare are essential sectors in Wales, offering thousands of rewarding careers.

This qualification introduces key principles such as safeguarding, communication, and values of care, alongside practical skills through real-world scenarios.

It supports the Curriculum for Wales and builds knowledge for progression to vocational study or employment.

With hands-on tasks and reflective learning, it prepares learners to understand and apply the fundamentals of safe, effective care.

## Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for learners aged 14-16 working at Entry Level and Level 1 who want to explore health, social care, and childcare through practical, hands-on tasks.

It suits those interested in understanding care principles, safeguarding, and communication while developing transferable skills like empathy, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Ideal for learners who prefer real-world scenarios over purely theoretical study, it provides a strong foundation for progression to vocational courses or entry-level roles in these essential sectors.

# What does the qualification cover?

Unit	Focus
<b>1. Introduction to the Health and Social Care and Child Care Sector and Basic Safeguarding</b>	<b>This unit will focus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• different areas of the health, social care and childcare sector</li><li>• the main job roles within the sector</li><li>• key values and principles of working in the sector</li><li>• effective communication</li><li>• expectations for working in the sector</li><li>• safeguarding</li><li>• ways to support people to stay safe.</li></ul>
<b>2. Adult Health and Social Care (optional)</b>	<b>This unit will focus on the:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• needs of adults requiring care</li><li>• awareness of responsibilities and codes of practice</li><li>• interpretation of simple care scenarios to identify appropriate support</li><li>• demonstration of basic care skills in practice</li><li>• application of knowledge of roles and responsibilities in adult care.</li></ul>
<b>3. Childcare (optional)</b>	<b>This unit will focus on the:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• demonstration of understanding of the needs of children</li><li>• interpretation of scenarios to support child development safely</li><li>• demonstration of basic childcare skills in practice</li><li>• application of knowledge of roles and responsibilities and awareness of codes of practice in childcare.</li></ul>

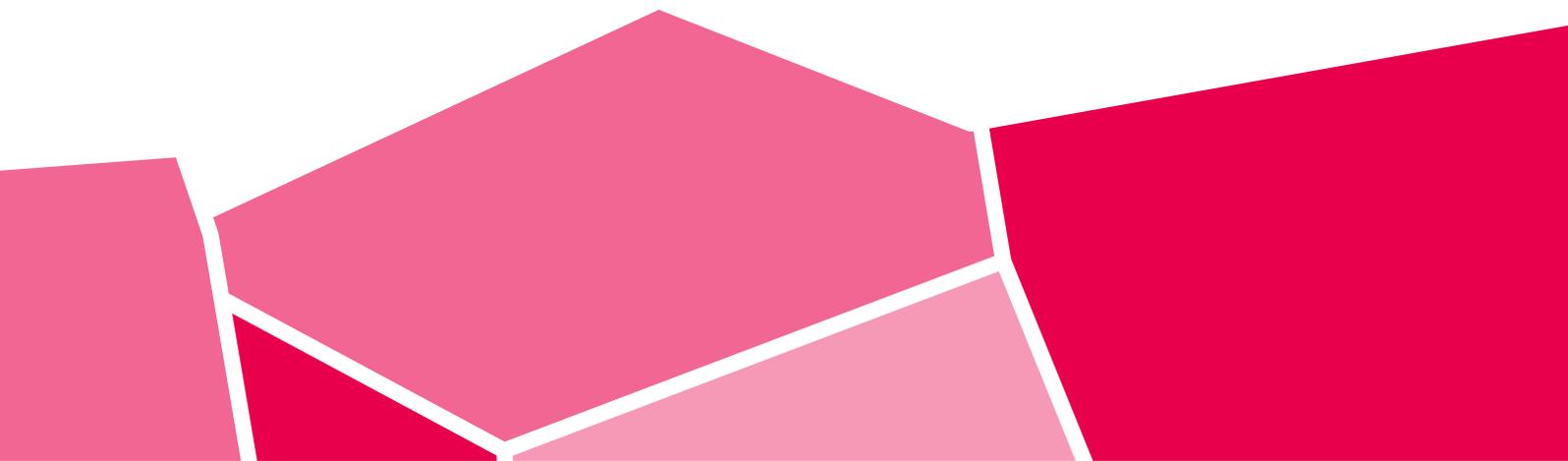
# Summary of Assessment

Assessment is based on flexible, classroom-based tasks rather than formal exams, enabling learners to showcase their skills through dynamic, classroom-based activities designed to bring learning to life.

It is built around clear, measurable criteria, set across four levels to recognise and celebrate progress at every stage.

Each unit provides inspiring task ideas and suggested evidence types, giving teachers everything they need to help learners demonstrate the key skills, knowledge, and understanding defined in the learning outcomes.

With freedom to design imaginative, personalised activities, teachers can tailor assessment to their learners' strengths, aspirations, and interests. All evidence is brought together in a practical, meaningful portfolio that highlights genuine achievement.



“Through hands-on learning and flexible assessment, our Work Related Foundation Qualifications inspire learners to discover their potential, achieve success, and prepare for the opportunities of further study and the world of work.

Our expert subject teams are ready to assist you throughout the journey, offering tailored resources and professional development to ensure you deliver these exciting new qualifications confidently.”

**Sarah Harris**

Assistant Director  
(Vocational Qualifications)



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.wjec.co.uk/wave3)



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