



Factsheet 31

The Foundation Learning Programme

1 What is Foundation Learning?

Foundation Learning is a national suite of learning for 14 - 19 year olds working predominantly at entry level or level 1. From 2013 the programme will form part of the 14-19 entitlement alongside Diplomas, Apprenticeships and general qualifications such as GCSEs and A levels.

Foundation Learning provides greater opportunities for progression to Level 2 including Diplomas, Apprenticeships and GCSEs.

2 The key features

Learners follow a personalised programme tailored to their individual needs and aspirations which encourages them to build confidence and fulfil their potential.

Learners and key workers agree an individual learning plan (ILP) reflecting the learner's prior learning achievements and intended destination, for example to Diplomas, GCSEs, Apprenticeships and, in some cases, supported employment or independent living.

Learning programmes include vocational subjects, personal and social development and functional skills as well as initial engagement and assessment, advice and guidance and on-going learner support.

'Stepping stones' of learning are recognised through the learner's achievement of flexible qualifications drawn from the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). Enrichment activities designed to re-engage learners are also included in the programme.

The aims of Foundation Learning

The aims of Foundation Learning are to

- ✓ support improved engagement, participation and progression through entry level and level 1 towards level 2 at the learner's own pace
- ✓ bring coherence to programmes of study at entry level and level 1 to support progression
- ✓ ensure that learners gain a minimum level and range of skills providing a sound foundation for further learning and employment
- ✓ support the delivery of quality learning programmes which help to encourage raised aspirations and a culture of lifelong learning

3 Who is it for?

Foundation Learning is suitable for learners in mainstream education and beyond including young people:

- who were suitable for E2E and key stage 4 engagement programmes
- with special educational needs and learning difficulties and disabilities
- who are NEET
- attending pupil referral units

continued overleaf

4 Benefits to learners

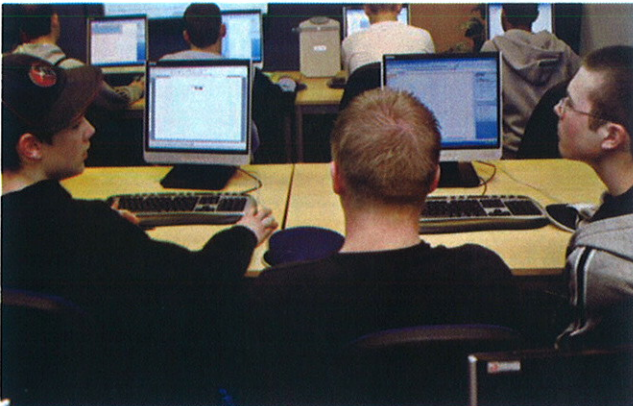
Foundation Learning lets learners choose what they study and how they specialise as well as how they plan their progression. It builds confidence through positive achievements and credits learning that in the past may not have been funded or recognised.

Foundation Learning provides a more rewarding and engaging experience for young people at entry level and level 1 increasing participation and progression.

5 Progression opportunities

Foundation Learning programmes provide a clear progression route to a number of goals:

- Diplomas
- Apprenticeships
- GCSEs
- full level 2 opportunities
- other 14 - 19 qualifications
- employment
- supported employment
- independent living



Foundation Learning and partnership working

Foundation Learning providers work in partnership with their local authority, other providers in their area, Connexions, IAG providers, support agencies, not for profit organisations and employers

6 Qualifications

Foundation Learning programmes can include the following qualifications at entry level and level 1 drawn from the Qualifications and Credit Framework:

- vocational qualifications
- functional skills in English, mathematics and ICT
- personal and social development

An individual learning plan is developed for each learner which includes the most appropriate qualifications to meet their needs and to motivate them to continue in learning.

The Foundation Learning Catalogue lists the qualifications available for use with the Foundation Learning programme. However, the Catalogue will no longer be up-dated and its status will be reviewed following the publication of the Wolf Review in Spring 2011.

For more information go to:

www.excellencegateway.org.uk
www.qcda.gov.uk
www.education.gov.uk