

Intent

Oswaldtwistle School offer a variety of vocational BTEC courses. BTEC Caring for Children is not only beneficial for students who may want to pursue a career in the childcare industry, but it may also be beneficial to them in their personal lives, when interacting with younger siblings and other relatives or with their own children in the future.

To gain a BTEC Level 1 Introductory Award in Caring for Children, students will have to complete and pass 2 units. Students may be given the option to study a further 3 units to top-up their level 1 award to a Level 1 Introductory certificate. Although these are both Level 1 qualifications, the certificate is evidence that the student has gained a more breadth of knowledge in the subject.

The two units that the BTEC Caring for Children students will be studying this year are:

- CfC12 – Children’s Learning through Everyday Experiences
- Unit A2 – Developing a Personal Progression Plan

To gain the Level 1 Introductory Certificate, Students will also study:

- Unit A1 – Being Organised
- CfC5 - Providing an Activity to Support Children’s Emotional and Social Needs.
- One more Unit from the Sector Options, to be chosen by the students.

Students will study Unit 12 during the first term as this unit will introduce the learner to the skills required to promote young children’s play and learning in their home.

In this unit:

Students will develop their knowledge and skills to support children’s learning through everyday experiences. They will also develop their skills in presenting information.

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

- Recognises opportunities to support children’s learning through everyday experiences.
- Present information to support children’s learning through everyday experiences.

Another option of study for our long term students is the BTEC First Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Level 2)

To gain a BTEC First Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development, students will have to study 3 units. The grades range from Level 2 Pass to Level 2 Distinction. Learners who do not achieve at Level 2 may be graded at Level 1.

The three units that the BTEC Children’s Play, Learning and Development students will be studying this year are:

- Unit 1 - Patterns of Child Development
- Unit 2 – Promoting Children’s Development through Play
- Unit 3 – The Principles of Early Years Practice.

Unit 1 will be assessed externally with an exam. Units 2 & 3 will be assessed internally via assignment-based assessments.

Students will study Unit 1 during the first term as this unit will introduce the learner to the different ages and stages of development that they will need understanding of before they can move on to discovering different ways of promoting children's development through play and the required support needed from the adult during these different stages.

In this unit:

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of child development. They will learn about five different areas of development – physical, cognitive, communication and language, emotional and social – and how these areas are linked.

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to:

- Understand growth and development in children
- Understand the characteristics of children's development from birth up to eight years
- Understand how adults in early years settings can support children's development.

Throughout the course, students will revisit the topics that they have previously covered to embed learning and key words. Educational trips will take place throughout the school terms, such as visiting childcare provisions where they will be able to identify and recognise the knowledge and skills that they have gained over the course.

Students will develop their literacy and numeracy skills throughout the units, either through retrieval of past learning, such as linking play activities to numeracy development or via links to the wider curriculum, such as carrying out extended writing tasks. Students are encouraged to use and revisit the keywords given in each unit, throughout the whole year, so that they are confident in defining the meaning and context to help to expand their vocabulary in the subject field.

Careers lessons are embedded into the yearly curriculum and through full school careers 'drop down days', as well as students having the opportunity to carry out some work experience in the final term of the year.

Cultural Capital is included in lessons in a variety of ways, including regular discussions on equality and diversity, and as a team, we are working with other subject leads to create and use cross curricular links.