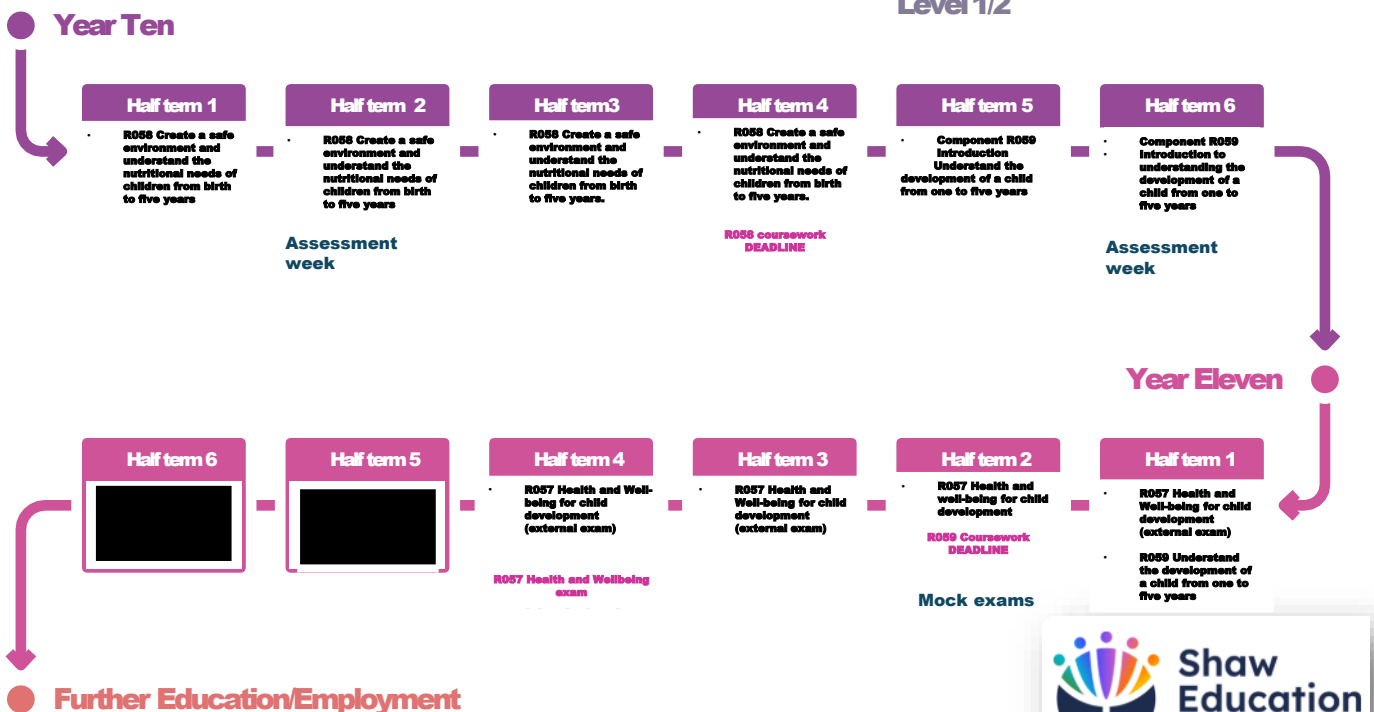


# Curriculum Map: Year 7 to Year 11 2025-2026

## Key Stage 4 – OCR Cambridge National Child Development Level 1/2



# Curriculum 2025 – 2026

## Rationale

At the Westleigh School this qualification supports students who are interested in understanding how children grow and develop from conception to age five, covering health, nutrition, safety, and overall well-being. The rationale behind the qualification lies in preparing students for both life and work by equipping them with practical skills and theoretical understanding that are relevant to everyday contexts and potential careers. It also provides a pathway for students of varying academic abilities, allowing them to gain a recognised qualification that complements traditional GCSEs while being more applied and vocational in nature.

## Intent

This qualification gives students a secure foundation in the principles of child development, helping them understand the factors that influence how children learn, grow, and thrive. It aims to develop knowledge of physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development alongside the skills needed to support children's health and safety. Through practical application and project-based learning, students are encouraged to plan, create, and evaluate real-world childcare activities. The course also seeks to nurture transferable skills such as research, problem solving, evaluation, and communication. By doing so, it prepares students not only for further education in health, social care, and early years education but also for potential employment in childcare settings.

## Implementation

The qualification is structured around three mandatory units. The first is an externally examined unit focusing on health and well-being, while the other two are non-examined assessments where students apply their learning through practical tasks. These involve planning safe environments for children, understanding nutritional needs, and observing child development between the ages of one and five. The mix of external and internal assessment ensures both academic rigour and opportunities for practical demonstration of knowledge. At the Westleigh School the course is delivered over two years, using a blend of classroom teaching, independent research, and hands-on assignments.

## Impact

Students gain valuable life skills and an appreciation for child development that can inform future study or employment. The course offers a sense of purpose and engagement through its practical components, helping many students succeed who might struggle in more exam-heavy subjects. Schools benefit from offering a curriculum that caters to diverse learning styles and abilities while maintaining a focus on progression and achievement. The qualification also supports the wider education system by promoting a balanced curriculum that values both academic and vocational learning. Students who complete it often progress to Level 3 courses, apprenticeships, or entry-level roles in childcare, demonstrating the qualification's success in connecting education with employability and practical competence.