

EYPS FAQs

Eligibility

Who is eligible to do EYPS training?

Early Years Professional (EYP) training and assessment was funded through the Transformation Fund, and now through the Graduate Leader Fund. The local authority administered part of the Transformation Fund is only for full daycare providers in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector. The CWDC Graduate Leader Fund allocation will be used to support EYP candidates from Children's Centres as priorities as well as those working within early years settings in the PVI sector.

The following groups must have priority for funding support:

- candidates from PVI full daycare and children's centres. These are the priority group for EYPS
- candidates from maintained full daycare settings such as social services family centres

If training places remain unfilled by candidates from full day care settings and Children's Centres, providers can select:

- candidates from sessional care or childminders (particularly those leading childminder networks)
- candidates involved in training the early years workforce in PVI settings and Children's Centres, such as:
 - Advisory teachers
 - LA early years development officers
 - FE teachers

There are no eligibility criteria for candidates wishing to do the Full time twelve-month Pathway. Any candidate that meets the entry requirements can apply.

Who would be ineligible for funding, and so EYPS training?

- Portage workers are currently not eligible to receive funding for EYPS.
- Voluntary Aided schools are in the maintained sector so employees will not be eligible to receive funding for EYPS.
- Nannies are currently not eligible.

What about overseas candidates?

Current guidance is that if a person is entitled to live and work in the UK they will be able to do the Full Training Pathway and attract all available support. For the Validation, Short and Long pathways the candidate must be currently working in a setting in England.

CWDC will be bringing out new guidelines prior to the September 2009 start that may make a difference to people's eligibility, but we will only be able to advise further once these guidelines have been released to us.

Are candidates from maintained full daycare settings eligible?

CWDC's explicit target is for the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors due to current levels of qualification. However within the eligibility criteria they specify that candidates from settings offering full daycare (regardless of sector) must be prioritised for funding. So any candidate from maintained sector full daycare is eligible for full support.

I work in a maintained school – can I do EYPS?

Generally no, CWDC's funding is to up-skill those in the PVI sectors. However, if you spend at least 50% of your time working within a Children's Centre, you would then be eligible.

Why are those working in maintained schools ineligible?

The Graduate Leader Fund focuses on the PVI sector because that's where need is the greatest. Over 80% of early years providers are private, voluntary or independent but the percentage of staff at graduate level in this sector is small – only 3% of staff in full daycare settings are graduates compared with around 40% of early years staff in maintained primary schools. This is a huge disparity. The Government has therefore set a clear ambition that, by 2015, every full daycare setting should be led by a graduate, with two graduates in settings in the 30% most disadvantaged areas (also by 2015).

I work in an independent school – am I eligible?

Although you would be working within the independent sector, to be eligible you have to be working at an early years setting. This being the case, if the independent school doesn't have any early years (0-5 years) provision, candidates working there would be **ineligible**.

Are childminders suitable EYPS candidates?

We welcome suitable childminders onto the course, and have previously had childminders achieve EYPS, but you must be Ofsted registered. Due to the nature of the job, childminders can sometimes find it difficult to provide evidence of leading and supporting others (although those leading childminder networks etc may have plenty of experience). Placements can be arranged to provide extra experience where needed.

What about nannies?

Unfortunately CWDC have made it clear that **nannies are not currently eligible** for EYPS funding, so would be unable to start the course.

Can volunteers do EYPS training?

We would recommend that volunteers do the Full Pathway only. This means that they can access the £5000 bursary and if they have a regular placement in a setting they may be able to continue there.

Where candidates are volunteering for a satisfactory amount of time within eligible settings and will have the opportunity to lead and support others there, they may be eligible for a work-based Pathway. There would be no setting payment made in this instance, the setting involved would need to invoice us for costs (if any) that are incurred by releasing the candidate for study.

What about candidates that would like to fund themselves or be funded by their employer/LA?

No, this is not possible. Currently we can only train people funded through CWDC, which means that individuals or organisations cannot fund candidates who are not eligible under the entry requirements.

Requirements - Qualifications

Degrees

Are applicants with Level 6 qualifications (but not degrees) eligible?

No, CWDC have strengthened this requirement, so all candidates must specifically have a full degree (not necessarily with honours) in any subject, not an equivalent level qualification.

Is a Level 7 masters degree acceptable to meet the degree requirement?

A Masters degree at Level 7 is acceptable as an entry requirement to EYPS provided that the candidate has relevant underpinning knowledge and experience.

Other qualifications that are not full degrees at Level 7 do not meet the requirement, for example a postgraduate certificate/diploma is **not** acceptable because it is not a degree.

Can candidates begin training before they have completed their degree course?

As long as they will have gained a full degree before completion of the course we can accept them. Candidates with Early Years Foundation Degrees (Level 5) are also able to top-up their qualification to a full degree while on the Long Pathway, though we're not able to offer this extra training at the present time.

I was awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) when candidates were required to have a Cert. Ed. rather than a full degree. Am I eligible to go forward for the award of EYPS?

Yes. Candidates who qualified as teachers before 1980 without degrees are considered to have met the degree requirement for EYPS

GCSEs

What if I have lost my GCSE certificates?

All candidates will have to provide evidence that they meet this requirement to their training provider. If a candidate has lost their original certificate, they will need to obtain a copy from the original awarding body.

Alternatively, if the candidate has also completed a Level 6 qualification that had the same requirement, then written confirmation from the awarding body, in most cases the university, stating as much may be taken as sufficient evidence.

If you are unable to provide these, you will have to sit and pass an accepted equivalency test for this requirement.

Which pre-GCSE qualifications are accepted equivalents?

Equivalents for this requirement extend to 'O' Levels at grade C and CSEs at grade 1

Are candidates with QTS required to also show degree and GCSE certificates?

Anyone who gained QTS since the end of the academic year 1983/84 will have had to provide evidence of a level of competence in the understanding and use of the English language and in Mathematics equivalent to the GCSE requirements for EYPS.

Those who gained QTS before this date would not have had to demonstrate an equivalent requirement

How do candidates evidence that they have QTS?

All teachers awarded QTS will have a letter or certificate issued by the GTC (General Teaching Council), or if prior to June 2001, the DfES.

If they do not have a certificate or letter, the candidates should contact the GTC and they will issue a letter confirming their QTS. Therefore, if a candidate produces evidence that they achieved QTS from 1983/84 onwards they are considered to have met the GCSE entry requirements for EYPS.

What about Numeracy and Literacy Level 2 qualifications?

Level 2 qualifications in numeracy and literacy are **not** acceptable equivalents in this case, as whilst they are set at the same level as GCSEs, they do not cover the same breadth of subject.

How do candidates arrange equivalency tests?

Some colleges can offer equivalency tests to the candidates studying there. Where this can't be arranged, we direct candidates to www.equivalencytesting.com. Candidates can download an exam syllabus and pay to either just sit an equivalency exam, or to study beforehand with tutor support.

Can candidates begin training without relevant GCSEs?

You can begin without the required grades in English and Maths, but you **will not** be able to enter the Validation stage until you have successfully gained these qualifications, so you must be confident that you will be able to reach the required standard or provide evidence of these qualifications.

What about overseas qualifications?

Candidates must contact NARIC (www.naric.org.uk) in order to receive confirmation that their qualifications are accepted equivalents. We must then see a copy of this confirmation.

Funding

Will I have to pay any course fees?

No - CWDC is able to use funds allocated from the [Graduate Leader Fund \(GLF\)](#) to cover course fees, bursaries, mentor costs and supply cover costs for candidates. Candidates will not be expected to pay any of the course fees required to attain Early Years Professional Status.

Am I entitled to any funding while I train towards EYPS?

In most cases, funding to be used for supply cover while you are in training will be paid directly to your employer (or to yourself if you are working as a childminder).

- **Validation:** 4 months - £500 provided to setting for supply cover
- **Short EPD:** 6 months - £1000 provided to setting for supply cover
- **Long EPD:** 15 months - £4000 provided to setting for supply cover

Candidates who successfully complete the Full Training Pathway will receive a bursary of £5,000.

For candidates on the part-time Pathways and currently working in private, voluntary and independent early years settings, your employer may also receive support from the local Graduate Leader Fund. This is separate to any funding paid we pay out as an EYPS provider. For further information talk to your employer who can get advice from their Local Authority.

When are these payments made?

We receive our funding from CWDC and distribute it to candidates/employers in three instalments: 40% at the start, 30% at the midpoint and 30% at the end of each Pathway.

What level of funding are non-priority candidates entitled to?

People in sessional early years settings and working as childminders, particularly those leading childminder networks:

The course would be fully funded, including mentoring support and supply cover funding paid to the employer.

Key people involved in training the early years workforce in PVI settings and Children's Centres:

These would be advisory teachers, LA early years development people and FE teachers. These candidates attract fee support only. Their employers would be expected to meet other costs (mentoring, supply cover as required).

Can candidates claim childcare costs while on the Full training Pathway?

No, the only money available from CWDC is the £5,000 bursary.

Will I be able to claim my travel expenses from my training providers?

No. If your setting is in receipt of the Quality Premium (QP) your setting manager can authorise use of that to cover travel expenses

If your setting is not in receipt of the QP you should look to your setting manager/line manager to discuss covering travel costs

Training

How do I know which training Pathway I'd be best suited to?

Your answers in the self assessment and outline of experience sections of the application form will be able to give you and us an initial idea of the most suitable Pathway for you. Following a one to one interview, our tutors will then be able to discuss your training needs and will recommend a Pathway to you.

How often will I be required to attend training sessions?

If you are undertaking a part-time Pathway, whole day training sessions are usually held around once a month at each training location. During the final three-month validation period these may be more frequent, as you will be required to attend extra preparation days to prepare you for final assessment.

If you are on the Full Training Pathway, you will be required to attend at college once a week. 18 weeks of placements at an early years setting will also be arranged, where you will be required to attend full time for a few days a week.

If you have any other queries regarding our courses or your eligibility, please contact the office on 0117 983 8800.