



Foundation Learning Factsheet

"We've been waiting for something like this. We've always offered something similar but it's good that it's formal and has qualifications attached to reward learners' achievements."

FE College, North West

"You learn more things... you don't just do things because you want to get out of the house, you do them because you want to do something with your life"

FE learner, West Midlands

Foundation Learning programmes are designed to suit the needs of individual learners so that they can progress and achieve their full potential

LSIS support for Foundation Learning

LSIS is offering a range of activities to support LAs and providers to implement FL.

www.excellencegateway.org.uk/FLT

DCSF website

Foundation Learning in the context of other 14-19 policies, with links to QCDA and LSC sites. www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/foundationlearning



Things you need to know about Foundation Learning

Foundation Learning is the national suite of learning for 14-19s at Entry Level or Level 1.

It offers learners personalised programmes of engaging and rewarding learning focused on progression. Achievements are captured in flexible qualifications drawn from the Qualifications & Credit Framework (QCF).

Provision can be included in Foundation Learning which may previously have been 'non-formal', such as activities designed to (re-)engage learners.

Foundation Learning is one of the 14-19 reforms along with Diplomas and Apprenticeships. Together, the reforms aim to support all young people to reach their full learning potential in preparation for life and work.

Foundation Learning provides a more rewarding and engaging experience for young people at Entry Level and Level 1, increasing participation and progression throughout the system. In this way it will make an important contribution towards raising the participation age from 2013.

Learners follow personalised programmes tailored to their individual needs and aspirations. A more personalised approach encourages learners to build confidence and fulfil their own potential.

The main aim is to support progression at the learner's own pace: learners and practitioners jointly agree an intended 'destination', wherever possible at Level 2 (Diplomas, Apprenticeships, GCSEs) or for some, independent living or supported employment.

Learners develop a full range of skills in a coherent manner: personalised programmes bring together vocational/subject learning, personal & social development and functional skills. Initial engagement and assessment is crucial, as is ongoing support and guidance.

Foundation Learning offers flexibility: small units of learning are added together on the QCF to form nationally recognised qualifications. Learners can benefit from 'bite-sized' progression, e.g. taking Level 2 units as part of a Level 1 qualification.

Achievement previously classed as 'pre-entry' can be captured in Entry Level 1. This will particularly benefit learners with special educational needs or learning difficulties and disabilities.

Foundation Learning will be delivered in a joined up way across 14-19 providers in local areas so that learners experience a coherent offer, whether staying in Foundation Learning or progressing to Diplomas, Apprenticeships etc.

All areas need to deliver some Foundation Learning for 14-19s by September 2010 as a basis for full implementation.

LAs and 14-19 Partnerships are leading this process, working with consortia and actively involving all schools and colleges.

Foundation Learning is supported from mainstream funding: through the Dedicated Schools Grant for schools, and demand-led Learner Responsive funding for 16+ providers.

Learners can 'top up' with extra units to convert a small qualification into a larger one on the QCF.