Teaching Assistant Qualifications

Teachers with full Qualified Teacher Status will be deemed to be a qualified Grade 3 teaching assistant. Otherwise teaching assistants being paid on GR3 should hold one of the approved qualifications. Current awarding bodies and approved qualifications are given on the Ofqual website. Training courses provided by organisations not registered with Ofqual (such as private colleges offering correspondence courses/distance learning) are not recognised for the purposes of qualification as a teaching assistant in Birmingham. Any employee or prospective employee wishing to obtain a recognised qualification for a teaching assistant should be advised to check that the course is approved by Ofqual before enrolling. For information on previous qualifications, which remain valid for those who hold them, see below.

The qualifications and credit framework (QCF) introduced in September 2010 replaced National Vocational Qualifications for teaching assistants. The most common qualifications for level 3 teaching assistants before the changes introduced in 2010 are given below and will remain valid for those people who hold them.

Pre-2010 qualifications

NNEB; National Diploma Caring; BTEC National Diploma (2 years); Caring Services (Nursery Nursing); BTEC National Diploma in Childhood Studies (Nursery Nursing); BTEC National Diploma Early Years and Childhood Studies; BTEC National Diploma Early Years Care and Education; BTEC Level 3 Certificate for Teaching Assistants; BTEC National Diploma Early Years; CACHE Level 3 NVQ in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools; CACHE Level 3 Certificate in work with Children – Early Years (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning APEL); Certificate of Higher Education Learning Assistants; City & Guilds NVQ Level 3 Teaching Assistants; City & Guilds NVQ Level 3 in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools; Classroom Support Worker Qualification – secondary (NVQ Level 3 Teaching Assistant equivalent); NVQ Level 3 Teaching Assistants (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL); NVQ Level 3 Child Care and Education; NVQ Level 3 for Teaching Assistants; NVQ Level 3 Childcare and Education; NVQ Level 3 Childcare Learning and Development; National Occupational Standards for Supporting Teaching and Learning in schools NVQ Level 3; Specialist Teaching Assistants (STA); Foundation Degree – Learning Support; Foundation Degree Early Childhood Studies (or Early Years); BA – Early Childhood Studies

For Teaching Assistant Vacancies, the following requirements apply:

Level 2: Preferably qualified to National Occupational Standards for Supporting Teaching and Learning in schools NVQ Level 2 previously known as Teaching Assistants. Any unqualified candidate appointed would be expected to gain National Occupational Standards for Supporting Teaching and Learning NVQ Level 2 within a reasonable period of time.