

# National guidance on numeracy and literacy skills in health and care

## FAQ

### How are SEND learners affected by this change?

SEND learners should be treated like all other learners. This means that the employer and education provider should work with them to create an individual learning plan that all parties are happy with and that is appropriate to their needs, learning level and aspirations.

### What happens to learners who previously failed their apprenticeship on the functional skills element alone?

This will depend on the apprentice's age on the day they originally started their apprenticeship training. Apprentices who restart the apprenticeship programme must still have new learning left to complete. They can restart on the same apprenticeship programme from the point that they withdrew – an apprentice cannot restart the apprenticeship only to do the end-point assessment.

If an apprentice started their apprenticeship training when they were aged 16-18, the requirement to study towards and achieve English and maths is still mandatory at the point that they restart.

If an apprentice started their apprenticeship training when they were aged 19+ and still have learning left to complete on programme, the requirement will be optional and they must discuss and document their decision as set out in the funding rules, at the point that they restart.

### What if an apprentice turns 19 on programme, will the exit requirement still apply?

If the apprentice's training start date is before their 19th birthday, they will still be subject to the mandatory English and maths exit requirements, as the rules relate to the apprentices age at the start of their training.

### Are education providers still required to conduct the initial assessment and collect evidence of prior attainment for those apprentices who choose not to study towards English and maths?

If the apprentice is aged 19+ and chooses not to study FSQs at the start of their apprenticeship programme, the provider is not required to carry out the English and

**maths portion of the initial assessment** or request evidence of prior attainment for English and maths.

Evidence, or prior attainment and initial assessment, would only apply to those aged 19+ who are opting in to FSQs. Prior qualifications and undertaking the initial assessment would allow the education provider to then start the apprentice on the right level of English and Maths training.

Evidence of prior attainment and initial assessment will continue to apply to apprentices aged 16-18 as set out in the funding rules.

### **Change in Circumstance**

**What if an existing apprentice (aged 19+) originally agreed to stop their English and/or maths FSQ training, but would like to be funded to do so after 1<sup>st</sup> April?**

If an apprentice chooses to study towards FSQs at a later date they will be funded to do so – but they must sit the functional skills assessment (even if they do not achieve).

If an apprentice chooses to study FSQs the training plan must be resigned by the apprentice, employer and provider.

Unusual retention patterns in English and maths provision for apprentices aged 19+ can be considered as a contextual factor in performance reviews under the Apprenticeships Accountability Framework.

**Will apprentices who are on a break in learning be expected to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> April deadline set out in the funding rules?**

For apprentices on a break in learning, a decision must be made in line with the funding rule requirements and form part of their return to learning after their planned break conversation.