

Post-16 Curriculum - Health & Social Care

Subject Curriculum Overview

Subject	Health & Social Care
Qualification / Specification	BTEC AAQ National Extended Certificate
Awarding Body	Pearson Edexcel
Level	3
Curriculum Lead	Rich Wiseman
Teaching Staff	Claire Angell
Guided Learning Hours	360 GLH
Year(s) Delivered	12 & 13
Last Review Date	June 2026
Next Review Date	June 2027

1. Curriculum Intent

The BTEC AAQ Health and Social Care gives learners the knowledge, skills, and understanding needed to study health and care at a higher level. It develops critical thinking, communication, and an understanding of person-centred care and current health issues.

The course prepares learners for university, higher apprenticeships, and careers in health and social care. It develops transferable skills such as research, analysis, teamwork, and independent learning.

The curriculum reflects current sector practice and develops the knowledge, professional behaviours, and academic skills expected by employers and universities, including communication, safeguarding, and problem-solving.

Learners achieve strong grades, produce high-quality coursework, perform well in exams, and progress confidently to higher education, apprenticeships, or careers in health and social care.

2. Foundational Knowledge

Area	Essential Knowledge & Skills	Why it Matters
Human Lifespan Development	Understand physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the life stages.	Provides the foundation for understanding individuals' needs and how these change over time.
Health and Wellbeing	Know the factors that influence health, wellbeing and health inequalities.	Enables learners to understand how health can be promoted and improved.
Person-Centred Practice	Apply person-centred values, care planning and communication skills.	Ensures care is respectful, individualised and meets people's needs.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Understand legislation, rights and inclusive practice.	Supports fair, non-discriminatory care and professional practice.
Safeguarding	Recognise safeguarding responsibilities and procedures for protecting vulnerable people.	Promotes safe practice and protects individuals from harm.
Communication	Develop effective verbal, non-verbal and written communication skills.	Essential for building positive relationships with individuals and professionals.
Professional Practice	Understand roles, responsibilities, ethics and confidentiality in health and social care.	Prepares learners for higher education and professional working environments.
Research and Analysis	Collect, interpret and evaluate evidence to support conclusions.	Develops the academic and analytical skills needed for assessment and progression to university.

3. Powerful Knowledge

Powerful Knowledge Area	Why it Matters	Evidence of Understanding
Human Lifespan Development	Enables learners to understand how development changes across the lifespan and influences health and care needs.	Explains developmental theories and applies them to case studies and real-life scenarios.

Health Inequalities and Determinants of Health	Develops an understanding of how social, economic and environmental factors affect health outcomes.	Analyses factors influencing health and evaluates strategies to reduce inequalities.
Person-Centred Care	Promotes the ability to plan and evaluate care that respects individual needs, preferences and rights.	Applies person-centred principles when assessing and justifying care approaches.
Professional Values and Ethics	Builds understanding of ethical practice, confidentiality, safeguarding and professional responsibilities.	Justifies decisions using legislation, ethical principles and professional standards.
Working in Partnership	Demonstrates how effective multi-agency and multidisciplinary working improves outcomes for individuals.	Evaluates the roles of different professionals and the benefits of collaborative practice.
Research and Evidence-Based Practice	Encourages learners to use evidence to inform decisions and improve health and social care practice.	Selects, analyses and evaluates research to support conclusions and recommendations.
Communication in Health and Social Care	Recognises the importance of adapting communication to meet individual needs and professional contexts.	Demonstrates effective communication strategies and evaluates their impact on care outcomes.
Contemporary Issues in Health and Social Care	Develops awareness of current challenges, policies and developments affecting health and care services.	Critically evaluates current issues and proposes evidence-based responses or improvements.

4. Curriculum Implementation

Term / Unit	Key Content	Foundational Knowledge	Powerful Knowledge	Assessment Opportunities
Year 12 Autumn Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development	Physical, intellectual, emotional and social development; factors affecting development; life events; theories of development.	Life stages, growth and development, developmental theories, factors influencing development.	Explain how development influences health, wellbeing and care needs across the lifespan.	retrieval quizzes, case studies, exam-style questions, external assessment preparation. Exam May year 12
Year 12 Spring Unit 5: Health Education	Models of health education, health promotion, public health campaigns, behaviour change, evaluating health initiatives.	Determinants of health, communication methods, health promotion strategies, barriers to healthy lifestyles.	Evaluate how effective health education empowers individuals and communities to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities.	Pearson set assignment brief 2 tasks marked written feedback and resubmitted
Year 12 Summer Unit 2: Human Biology and Health	Body systems, homeostasis, disease processes, genetics, lifestyle factors, diagnosis and treatment.	Human anatomy and physiology, body systems, infection, common diseases and healthy functioning.	Analyse how biological processes and lifestyle choices interact to influence health and wellbeing.	Knowledge tests, practical application tasks, external assessment practice. Exam January year 13

Year 13 Autumn -Spring Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice	Person-centred practice, safeguarding, legislation, ethics, communication, multidisciplinary working, equality and diversity.	Care values, legislation, safeguarding responsibilities, communication skills and professional practice.	Evaluate how legislation, ethical principles and person-centred approaches improve outcomes for individuals accessing services.	Pearson set assignment brief 2 tasks marked written feedback and resubmitted April year 13
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5. Assessment Strategy

Assessment Type	Purpose	Frequency
Retrieval Quizzes	Check recall of key terminology, concepts and prior learning to strengthen long-term memory.	Weekly
Knowledge Checks	Monitor understanding of new content and identify misconceptions.	Every lesson / weekly
Case Study Analysis	Develop application of knowledge to realistic health and social care scenarios.	At the end of each topic
Exam-Style Questions	Build confidence in responding to externally assessed questions and improve exam technique.	Fortnightly
Pearson set Assignments	Assess learners' ability to research, analyse, evaluate and apply knowledge to meet AAQ assessment criteria.	As required within each internally assessed unit
Mock Exams	Measure progress against external assessment standards and identify areas for improvement.	November and March

Teacher Feedback	Provide targeted feedback and opportunities for learners to improve their work and understanding.	Following each assessed task
Summative Assessment	Evaluate overall achievement at the end of each unit and inform predicted grades and progression.	At the end of each unit