

**Starting September 2026**

## **Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Early Childhood Development (Extended Certificate)**

### **Why study Early Childhood Development at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?**

- Studying Childhood development Level 3 National AAQ will provide an introduction to the different sectors and the importance of the development of children.
- It is for students who are interested in learning about the working sectors in childhood as part of a balanced study programme. It is equivalent to one A level.
- The qualification supports access to a range of higher education courses, but not exclusively in Early childhood development, if taken alongside further Level 3 qualifications.
- We are a well experienced team made up of specialist teachers from a range of variety of different backgrounds with extensive experience of Early childhood related areas.
- We are able to work collaboratively with colleagues from different settings along with colleagues from universities.

### **What topics will I study in this subject and how will they be assessed?**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>What this means</b>
Unit 1: Children's Development	External assessment written exam. Students explore children's developmental progress from birth up to eight years. They will examine theories, principles and factors relating to development
Unit 2: Keeping Children Safe	External assessment written exam. Students explore the responsibilities of a professional to maintain health and safety as well as ensuring effective safeguarding measures are in place. They will understand what to do in an emergency and when to address concerns about a child's welfare.
Unit 3: Play and Learning	Internal assessment coursework. Students explore the concept of play, the influence of theories and approaches to play, and the benefits of play and learning activities for children.
Unit 4: Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting	Internal assessment coursework. Students understand how research findings influence policy and provision for children and are able to reflect on how this influences their own behaviour and expectations in the work placement environment

### **What skills will I need in this subject?**

<b>Skill</b>	<b>What this skill involves in this subject</b>
Analysis	Your lessons and independent study work will involve analysis. This means you will be given data and information that you will need to research, and you will be required to write at length about your findings. You will need to give detailed explanations and justify your choices.
Research skills	As part of your coursework you will be expected to use research skills to investigate different areas of Childhood sectors. You will be presented with areas to research, use a variety of sources, and justify their relevance.

#### Evaluative skills

Students will evaluate the impact and effectiveness of services in meeting the needs of different service users and be expected to make justified recommendations underpinned by Early Childhood concepts and principles.

### What will my lessons involve?

- We will discuss key terminology and identify areas that you must independently research.
- In theory lessons you will listen to key information about a topic area and create sets of notes to support your coursework or revision for the exam.
- You will conduct independent research using a variety of sources including internet-based Child development resources, reports, statistical data and websites and the wealth of Childcare books and guides we have available in the Sixth Form.
- A large proportion of lessons will be spent completing coursework in controlled assessment conditions. Some of this time will be spent researching a variety of sources as well as completing extended writing tasks and practical application of skills.
- Some lessons will involve listening to specialist speakers.

### What will my independent study involve?

- In order to gain the highest grades in the exam you must complete at least 1 hour of independent study for every lesson. During these sessions you are expected to produce revision resources that will prepare you for the exams.
- In class you will have identified your gaps in knowledge so it will be clear which areas you need to work on. Examples of this are creating mind maps, creating revision flash cards and self-quizzing.
- You may also have to complete work collaboratively such as completing a group presentation on a given area of the exam.
- For coursework, your independent study will involve research and exploration of areas related to the content and scenarios presented in the assignment brief.

### How do I know this is the right course for me?

- You will be a strong independent learner who can analyse written and numerical information accurately.
- You will relish the challenges of researching, conducting and analysing data.
- You will enjoy working collaboratively and prefer a combination of coursework and exam. One of the challenges is time management as there are lots of deadlines and managing both coursework and exam content at the same time can be difficult. It is important that you plan from the very beginning of the course your independent study time in school and at home so that you have a clear plan of when you will complete work. This is especially important if your combination of subjects means that you have other coursework to complete.
- This course is ideal for students who wish to go into a career in the caring profession or pursuing a career in Early Childhood sectors.