



SIGN LANGUAGE

Sign Language is taught by a small but highly qualified and dedicated team of Deaf Staff. They adapt their style and pace to allow learners with learning and physical disabilities equal access to achieve Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People (CACDP) qualifications.

British Sign Language (BSL) qualifications are designed to develop an ability to communicate with Deaf people. This area provides a range of sign language programmes from beginner to Level 3 NVQ for learners, staff and external candidates as well as offering customised Deaf Awareness short programmes for the business sector and Level 4 NVQ for external candidates. Learners are able to start at any level depending on their signing skills.

Qualification specifications outline the aims and objectives of the qualification. There are also DVDs and videos which are suitable for practise in the classroom to develop functional skills in everyday language use.

Award in British Sign Language Level 1

This programme covers a range of topics:

101 Introduction Unit: Meeting people, using numbers, weather, transport, directions.

102 Conversational Unit: At home – people, animals and objects, using numbers, interests and activities, weather.

103 BSL at School, College or Work Unit:

Getting around, exchanging information, refreshments, using numbers.

Candidates must achieve all three units for the full Award

Certificate in British Sign Language Level 2

This qualification consists of three units, Receptive, Conversation and Productive. Learners must achieve all three units to attain the full qualification.

There are four themes which enable learners to build on vocabulary, grammar and skills learnt at Level 1.

Theme 1 'Everyday conversation'

All learners will study this topic.

Theme 2 'Eating and Drinking'

Theme 3 'Shopping and Spending', and

Theme 4 'Travel and Holidays' to complete their conversational skills and productive units.

To obtain the Receptive unit candidates must answer multiple-choice questions from a DVD of a narrative.

NVQ Certificate in British Sign Language Level 3

Learners are offered pre-Level 3 classes if they need to improve their language skills before embarking on the Level 3 NVQ programme.

This qualification can be used as evidence of the language skills needed in order to operate independently and at level in the target language, and is useful for those who work with Deaf people. Candidates for this qualification must be able to demonstrate competence at Level 3. This means that they will be able to understand and express information, ideas and opinions about a variety of subjects, and deal with a range of work tasks.

Candidates must complete a portfolio which provides evidence to show that they have covered a range of work contexts for the speaking (signing) and listening (receptive) units.

NVQ Certificate in British Sign Language Level 4

This portfolio based qualification is only available to external candidates who are working within the Deaf community.