

First Aid Training for School and College Staff

Overview

This document sets out the options available for ITC First qualifications to help schools and colleges in England and Wales provide first aid cover for their staff, students and visitors.

Legal Obligations

Schools and Colleges have a **legal requirement** to provide first aid cover for their employees under the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981, as stated in the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance document L74. The Department for Education (DfE) **strongly recommend** in their guidance document “First aid in schools, early years and further education” that there is also provision for pupils, students and visitors, which is generally the case despite it not being a legal requirement.

When there are Early Years (0 – 5 year olds) children present, there **must** be, as stated in the DfE Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, staff available who hold a current Paediatric First Aid (PFA) qualification.

There is no legal obligation for any school staff other than those in Early Years to hold a Paediatric First Aid qualification, although it would be sensible for schools that have Early Years children to have PFA training to cover staff absences and changes in personnel, lunchtime duties, wrap around care as well as to provide cover for visitors during assemblies and family involvement work.

Options

The following qualifications are certificated by ITC First and help schools and colleges to meet their first aid needs assessment:

- ITC Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid for Schools and Colleges (EFASch)
- ITC Level 3 Award in First Aid for Schools and Colleges (FASch)
- ITC Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) – SCQF version also available
- ITC Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (FAW) – SCQF version also available
- ITC Level 3 Award in Emergency Paediatric First Aid (EPFA)
- ITC Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid (PFA)
- ITC Level 3 Award in Outdoor First Aid Emergency Action (OFAEA)
- ITC Level 3 Award in Outdoor First Aid (OFA) – SCQF version also available
- ITC Award in Forest School First Aid (FSFA) – due to become a Level 3 Award during 2023
- ITC Level 3 Award in First Aid for Sport, Exercise and Fitness (FASEF) – SCQF version also available

Qualification	Emergency	Comprehensive	Adults	Children	Context Specific
EFASch	Y		Y	Y	
FASch	Y	Y	Y	Y	
EFAW	Y		Y		
FAW	Y	Y	Y		
EPFA	Y			Y	
PFA	Y	Y		Y	
OFEA	Y		Y	Y	Y
OFA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FSFA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
FASEF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y



Which qualification is “best” for schools and colleges?

Of the above qualifications, the best fit to cover most staff at most schools and colleges, particularly those with older children, would be the ITC Level 3 Award for Schools and Colleges. It covers staff and youngsters for all the content typically found in comprehensive first aid qualifications and delivered in a context that focusses on the school/college environment. It meets the needs of the HSE’s first aid guidance in allowing alternative qualifications to E/FAW (L74, section 63). It also meets the guidance set out by both the DfE and HSE that additional training in paediatric first aid, such as resuscitation procedures for children is included.

There will be cases where some staff would benefit from context specific first aid training, e.g. adventurous activities, Forest School and sports activities – ITC First has the qualifications to cover those areas as well.

Bibliography

- L74 “The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 – HSE 2013
- First aid in schools, early years and further education – DfE 2022
- Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage – DfE 2021