EARLY YEARS QUALITY STANDARDS.

The Early Years Quality Standards Scheme (EYQS) Year 1 EYQS

The EARLY YEARS Quality Standards (EYQS) scheme is a prestigious recognition that acknowledges and celebrates Early Years schools and settings who demonstrate outstanding commitment to excellence and quality.

The scheme is designed to recognise those who consistently strive for the highest standards of early years practice driving a culture of excellence and improving outcomes for all.

To express your interest in joining our next cohort in September 2026, please book your free place onto our EYQS online briefing on Monday 8th June 2:00-2:45pm or email eyquality@hfleducation.org

The Early Years Quality Standard Scheme is a long standing award scheme that has acknowledged the excellent quality in schools and settings for many years. We are excited to introduce an updated award scheme that continues to recognise and reflect on the work that schools and settings are doing to ensure the very best for the children and families they serve.

Emma Wild, Senior Early Years Consultant
HFL Education

The cost of the Early Years Quality Standards is based on the size of the provision, number of children and the level of quality mark the setting chooses to work towards. Deadline for cohort applications is 24th July 2026.

EYQS is organised into a 2-year cycle. You may choose to complete Year 1 EYQS as a standalone award or complete both years of the award to achieve EYQS Premium. Your award expires five years after the date of your award. You can continue to add to you award for up to five years by completing EYQS modules each year.

The EYQS scheme is a practical and participatory approach that emphasises problem solving, collaboration, and positive change.

YEAR 1 EYQS

The first year supports you to reflect on your statutory and core provision through a series of self-evaluative modules. You will undertake two statutory and two core modules before selecting from a range of subject specific modules. Your allocated mentor will visit you twice within this year to support you with your EYQS journey.

YEAR 2 EYQS PREMIUM

The second year allows you to deepen your knowledge, understanding and practice by focusing on one area of provision where you determine the widest gaps are in your provision. This may have been highlighted during the Year 1 process or may be identified from your cohort information.

It will take the form of a project which includes the whole team and will incorporate an audit from the Early Years Team. The audit will be specific to your chosen area for development. Following your audit your project will include your team undertaking research and using the result of your chosen audit scale alongside this research to improve outcomes.

Modules available include:

Environment, interactions, equality and diversity, nature, safeguarding, outdoor provision, staff well being, working with babies, early literacy, working with families, communication & language, and more!

HFL Education

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