



The CPD Standards Office

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FAIRLEY HOUSE SCHOOL

Fairley House Level 7 Diploma in Teaching and Assessing Learners with Specific Learning Differences

Cost: £5,750

All prices are subject to change

Important Notice:

The closing date for applications will be Friday 1st March 2025. Interviews will be scheduled as applications are submitted – the course is due to run in September 2025, however, this is subject to student intake.

Teacher training at Fairley House School

Fairley House School is London's Leading Day School for children with specific learning differences (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.

Fairley House School (FHS) has offered the Level 7 Diploma in teaching and assessing Learners with Specific Learning Differences for many years. It is widely recognised as a 'gold standard' provider.

Fairley House is the only central London venue offering the course. We are unique in offering a course within a specialist school, drawing upon the expertise of staff working on a daily basis with SpLD students.

The course combines theory and practice and enables candidates to build upon teaching skills acquired on the Level 5 Diploma by teaching a more complex learner and to acquire skills in assessment.

This qualification is designed to provide a route for continued professional development for teachers/trainers who have responsibility for specific learning differences (SpLD) across a whole age phase/centre and are involved with advising and supporting classroom teachers. They will also be in a position to assess and diagnose for SpLD dyslexia and to assess and advise for Access Arrangements for formal examinations and for the Disabled Students Allowance in Higher Education.

The Level 7 course runs for three terms from September to July. It involves attendance at lectures and seminars on Tuesday evenings from 4.30pm to 7.00pm. Some lectures are accessible online so

candidates can access them at their own convenience. Course materials such as lecture handouts are downloadable. Each candidate will be assigned a tutor who will support and mark their work.

This course is research based and candidates will be expected to read widely around the subject. Reading will support the final extended essay.

Accreditation by the CPD Standards Office

The Level 7 Diploma has been validated by the CPD Standards Office and we are proud to have achieved accredited CPD Status. To achieve the accreditation, our courses and tutors have undergone a rigorous assessment process, focused on the development and delivery of our training including our educational authority, the collection and utilisation of candidate feedback, and processes for ensuring our content stays up to date.

Now Fairley House has achieved accreditation and status as an accredited CPD Provider, we are committed to working hard to maintain and exceed the excellent standard we have already set.

Feedback from Candidates

‘The Level 7 course has been a brilliant amplification of my learning on the Level 5 course which I undertook 2 years ago. It has given me the opportunity to deepen my understanding of dyslexia and especially the co-occurring difficulties that so often accompany it. I feel so thrilled that I will now have the ability to actually diagnose dyslexia which is the inevitable next step in my practice. Level 7 is undeniably hard work, but I consider it to be 100% worth it’.

‘I highly recommend the Level 7 at Fairley House School. It has provided me with a clear structure with a mixture of online and face to face lectures which have me allowed the flexibility to study alongside my job. It is a content heavy, task oriented programme, requiring a great deal of personal research. This is extremely well supported by the tutors and course manager who are committed to ensuring meticulous attention to detail and protocol resulting in a high calibre professional development experience. Tutors are available to offer support and advice as needed. Face to face lectures provided by them alongside outside speakers are inspirational. For those with a passion for improving long term outcomes for pupils with SpLD's, who are organised, self-motivated independent learners and have the self-discipline to adhere to deadlines, Level 7 offers a great CPD opportunity resulting in a prestigious qualification valued by the profession’.

‘My tutor was excellent. Her marking of my work was a major teaching point and was invaluable. I also liked the lectures being online. This allowed me to pause and repeat them, which added value to my learning. I felt this was definitely the way forward for me.’

‘I am particularly enjoying the specialist teaching aspect of the course. The research I have done around my learner's co-occurring difficulty is inspiring some creative teaching solutions’.

‘I really liked the opportunity to hear the lectures again on line and go over bits again’.

‘My tutor was very accessible on different platforms even in the holidays which is when as a teacher you are doing most of the work.’

'By the end of the course, I felt confident to do assessments. I liked the way the course built confidence'

'I really liked the fact you could download the lectures to your computer and still use them post course - a huge plus for me. I felt my tutor was exemplary and went above and beyond'.

Brief Course Outline

Autumn Term

- Standardised test practice
- Access arrangements and assessment
- Assessment for 12 weeks teaching practice
- Plan for first 6 weeks of teaching practice

Spring Term

- Teaching Practice: Candidates will teach a learner for 12 hours who has literacy difficulties accompanied by a co-occurring condition OR a student who is in a different Key Stage to the Key Stages taught on the Level 5 course.
- Completion of Teaching Practice
- Psychometric essay
- Test grids

Summer Term

- Diagnostic Assessment
- Extended Essay of 5000 words.

Distinctive features of the course

The course is based on guidelines for specialist teachers within the SpLD Framework <https://framework.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/framework-users-guide/introduction>

The course has been designed so that teachers are able to access it alongside their school commitments. The Tuesday evening lectures and seminars will be practical, allowing candidates hands on experience of assessments, discussion of SpLD profiles and research and sharing of teaching ideas. You will also be invited to attend the Fairley House School professionals' lecture evenings twice a year.

Candidates have access to a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where all the lectures videos are stored, teaching videos uploaded for assessment and course work marked.

There are strict guidelines for assignment completion dates to ensure candidates stay on track.

Why study with us?

Our lecturers and tutors all have a vast amount of knowledge in the area of teaching dyslexia, dyspraxia and co-occurring difficulties. Our team consists of an Educational Psychologist, specialist teachers, Speech and Language therapists and Occupational Therapists, ensuring a holistic approach. Experienced members of the school teaching staff share their competence with candidates

Target Group

- Specialist and Advisory teachers
- SENCOs/Learning Support tutors and managers.
- Speech and language or occupational therapists or psychologists
- This qualification is designed to meet the needs of qualified teachers who will not only teach learners who have specific learning needs but also provide formal diagnostic assessment reports based on the use of standardised assessment tests. They have a broader role, which involves providing advice to others with regard to appropriate teaching programmes for the individuals they have assessed.

Candidates should possess an appropriate level of learning support experience, and should have unrestricted access to appropriate teaching and assessment practice. **They should also have completed the Level 5 Diploma course.**

Skills Developed

The aim of the qualification is to:-

- Develop candidates' ability to identify and assess the needs of learners with specific learning differences, using observation and evidence based assessment and standardised tests.
- Develop candidates' ability to write assessment reports and teaching programmes that inform and advise other professionals on learners with specific learning needs.
- Write assessment reports to advise external bodies (e.g. Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) bodies and Local Authorities (LAs) with regard to learners' specific assessment needs.
- Assess for Access Arrangements for public examinations.
- Develop candidates' professional values and commitment to professional standards.
- Develop candidates' understanding of a range of specific learning differences affecting learning and cognition.
- Develop candidates' ability to plan, deliver, review and evaluate effective teaching programmes for learners with specific learning differences, both in individual and small group settings.
- Plan, deliver and evaluate programmes, which include both literacy and numeracy, and understand how difficulties with language and literacy will affect the development of numeracy skills.

- Develop candidates' ability to work with others in supporting learners with specific learning differences.
- Develop candidates' theoretical understanding of specific learning differences with reference to international research.

Professional Development Post Qualification

Further academic progression could be towards a Master's degree. Some universities will give credit for the Level 7 qualification up to one third of a Master's degree.

Candidates will also be able to progress to job roles that require the ability to:-

- Carry out diagnostic assessments for specific learning differences (dyslexia) and write assessment reports on learners' educational needs to inform schools, LAs and others.
- Advise teachers, parents/carers and older learners on the learner's needs.
- Conduct assessments for access arrangements for GCSE and GCE examinations in accordance with JCQ regulations.
- Take an advisory role with regard to formulating and implementing school/college policies for both inclusion and effective teaching of learners with specific learning differences.
- Once the course is satisfactorily completed, there is the opportunity to apply for the Assessment Practising Certificate (APC), which is recognised by SASC and PATOSS. This will enable candidates to assess for the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

To obtain more information please contact Mika, our Course Administrator:

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