



Health Education England

HEE Support for Functional Skills

Elaine Lancaster: HEE Relationship Manager, Apprenticeships (SE)

What are Functional Skills?

Post 16 qualifications in

- Literacy (English)
- Numeracy (Maths)
- Digital Skills

Designed to help learners of all ages and levels to develop and demonstrate **practical skills** needed in **real-life situations**.

Functional Skills L2 = Level 2 qualification

What's the difference between GCSE's and Functional Skills?

GCSE Maths	Functional Skills Maths
Algebra	Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
Ratio, proportion and rates of change	Fractions, percentages, and decimals
Probability	Distance, weight, volume and temperature
Statistics	Charts and tables
Geometry and measures	Mean, median and mode

What's the difference between GCSE's and Functional Skills?

GCSE English	Functional Skills English
Creative writing and reading	Writing style and structure
Fiction	Spelling and punctuation
Non-fiction	Grammar
Descriptive and narrative writing	Verbal communication
Presenting	Listening skills

What's the link between apprenticeships and Functional Skills?

- Functional Skills are a key part of completing an apprenticeship and you **cannot** complete your apprenticeship without it:

Level 2 apprenticeship needs Functional Skills Level 1

Level 3 apprenticeship needs Functional Skills Level 2

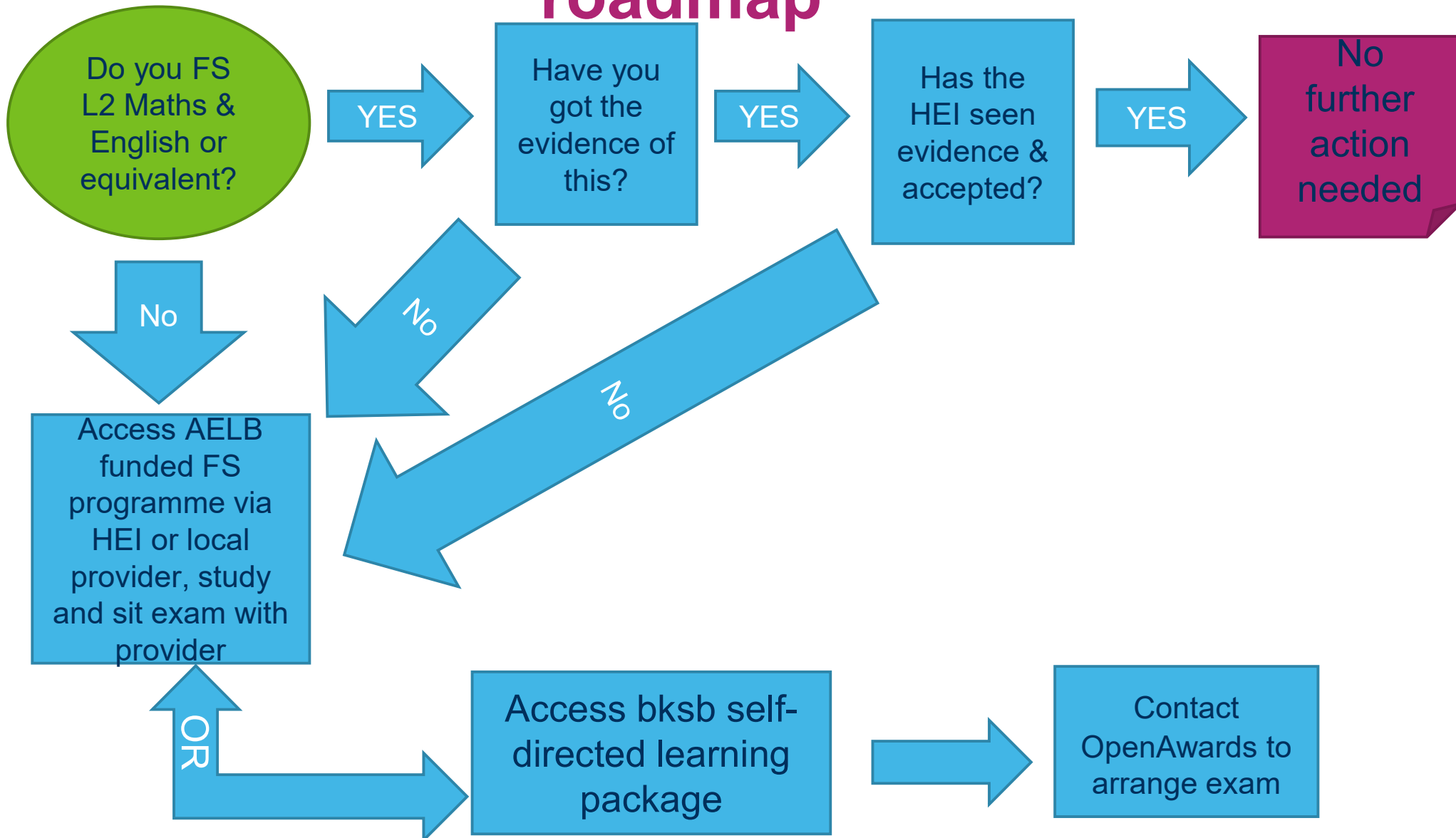
- You do not need to do Functional Skills if you already hold or have equivalent qualification
- Training provider will ask you to provide evidence of these quals to comply with ESFA funding rules. **Do you know where the certificates are?**
- Many HEI's ask for FS L2 or equivalent as entry requirement for degree level apprenticeships
- Can be challenging to study your apprenticeship AND study for FS. FS not included in Off the Job allocation

L2 Functional Skills equivalences

- **GCSE** Maths & English, A*-C/9-4
- **A Level or AS Level:** any A Level with Mathematics or English in title, minimum grade E
- **O Level** English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, minimum grade C
- **CSE** English or Mathematics, minimum grade 1
- **Key Skills Level 2**, Communication (Literacy), Application of Number (Numeracy), Pass
- **Access to HE Diploma**, English units, Math Units, minimum of 12 credits for English and 12 credits for maths at Level 2

[Gov.uk FULL list of equivalents](#)

Functional Skills and apprenticeships roadmap



Functional Skills for all!

- Anyone can study for their functional skills – not just to get on an apprenticeship programme, or complete an apprenticeship
- Publicly funded via Adult Education Learning Budget if you do not already hold a L2 in Maths and/or English
- Speak to local FE colleges or apprenticeship training providers about accessing provision
- Delivery can be in-person or online, or blended
- Programmes usually last 9-12 weeks

NB: due to funding rules you can only access one taught programme e.g. You cannot be studying for FS at your local FE college and the HEI where you are studying

HEE support for FS: bksb & OpenAwards

- Online platform, funded for all health and social care employers.
- Supports maths, English and ICT, all mapped to FS curriculum
- Platform can be used for self-directed study or to supplement a formal taught programme. You do not need to be doing an apprenticeship or Functional Skills course to access
- Platform has initial assessment, diagnostic, structured learning and exam practice.
- Individuals in your organisation can be signed up by a nominated lead in your organisation and bksb offer training on using the system and understanding learner progress
- OpenAwards funded offer for examinations if not following an AELB funded programme.

HEE support for FS: National Numeracy

- National Numeracy are an independent, national charity established to raise low levels of numeracy among adults and children in the UK.
- Focus on managing maths anxiety
- They have produced the [National Numeracy Challenge](#) to support approach to a confidence in thinking about maths – great point to start on numeracy journey.
- Also HEE funded Numeracy Champions programme to support those who support learners.
- **Not** a programme about teaching numeracy but addressing numeracy confidence and having supportive conversation

Useful links

[Short video on how bksb and Open Awards link together](#)

[How to sign up your organisation to bksb](#)

[National Numeracy Challenge](#)

[HEE funded Becoming a Numeracy Champion programme](#)

Me! Elaine.Lancaster@hee.nhs.uk

Functional Skills resources in your local area

Thames Valley (Frimley Training Hub and BOB Primary care)

[Functional-Skills-Primary-Care-v2.pptx \(live.com\)](#)

Kent and Medway Primary Care Training Hub: email kmpcth@nhs.net

Sussex Training Hub: [Find out about functional skills - Sussex Training Hub](#)
email rose.miller2@nhs.net

Surrey Training Hub: email syheartlandsicb.surreytraininghub@nhs.net

Hampshire and Isle of White: email primarycareschooltvw.se@hee.nhs.uk