

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Early Years and Primary Practice with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner [Progression Route]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Early Childhood Studies Degrees Network (ECSDN)
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits Plus, advanced standing of 240 credits at levels 4 and 5
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Early Years & Primary Practice with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 240 credits completed in a relevant topic Students must engage in 12 hours per week of work-based learning on the full-time programme or 6 hours per week on the part time programme either with their current employer or on a voluntary basis in a registered early years or Primary setting. A clear Enhanced DBS is needed.
Delivering Institution(s)	Ipswich or Distance learning online
UCAS Code	X312

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the **BA (Hons) Early Years & Primary Practice** with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner [Progression Route] course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The BA (Hons) in Early Years & Primary Practice with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner [Progression Route] is an intensive one year full-time / two-year part-time work-based higher education qualification for experienced Early Years or Primary Practitioners who have successfully completed a Foundation Degree in Early Years and Primary Practice, or a similar equivalent undergraduate course

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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The programme focuses on developing student's knowledge and understanding of the principles and values that underpin the learning and development of young children primarily from 0-11 years, and to critically apply these values and principles in order to develop their professional practice. To gain entry to the programme, students are required to have previously completed a (HE) level 5 undergraduate relevant programme and are able to continue working in relevant employment whilst studying. Students will require the support of their employer and a mentor to successfully complete the course of study.

Course Aims

1. Advance critical and analytical understanding of educational values, practices, and leadership in early years and primary contexts.
2. Develop the ability to evaluate and apply research to improve practice and influence change.
3. Promote global awareness, inclusive education, and ethical practice in working with children and families.
4. Support students in becoming reflective, research-informed practitioners and leaders in their fields.
5. Students who successfully meet the assessed practice competencies will be eligible for recognition as Early Childhood Graduate Practitioners.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Early Years & Primary Practice with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Demonstrate critical understanding of educational theories, values, and practices, including global and inclusive perspectives.
2. Analyse the impact of policy, legislation, and socio-cultural factors on children's learning and development.
3. Apply advanced interdisciplinary theoretical and research knowledge to evaluate and improve practice.
4. Demonstrate leadership and decision-making skills in complex and diverse educational contexts.
5. Critically reflect on professional practice and propose informed recommendations for improvement.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)
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6. Design and conduct independent research projects relevant to early years and primary practice.
7. Communicate complex arguments and findings effectively to professional and academic audiences.
8. Exhibit initiative, autonomy, and readiness for continued professional development and lifelong learning.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (2024) (FHEQ).
- Early Childhood Studies Subject Benchmarks (ECSB) (2022).
- Early Childhood Studies Degree Network (ECSDN) Graduate Practitioner Competencies.

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Early Years & Primary Practice with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner comprises modules at Level 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 6			
	Therapies, Mental Health and SEND	30	M
	Education, Schooling, and Society	30	M
	Independent Project	30	M
	Leading as a Graduate Practitioner	30	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Early Years & Primary Practice with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich campus and online. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) in Early Years & Primary Practice with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner are likely to have approximately 168 hours of tutor structured learning. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures, workshops, seminars. Students will be provided with tutorial support throughout the course and be expected to engage with around 15 hours of independent study per week but should be prepared for weekly workload to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises. Students will also be required to participate in 12 hours of work placement

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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per week full-time and 6 hours per week part-time. Students will be expected to find their own placement.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will consist of coursework, assessments will be varied and include portfolios related to practice, reports, reflections, and presentations

Special Features

The course embeds the Early Childhood Graduate Competencies, developed by the Early Childhood Degree Network (ECSDN) [ECSDN Graduate Practitioner Competencies](#) and supported by the Department for Education (DfE). These competencies are ingrained within both the FdA/BA (Hons) EYPP courses and builds on our already well-established early years curriculum by further promoting the understanding, knowledge and skills required for work in the contemporary early years and primary sectors. Students have the opportunity to complete and have these competencies assessed as part of their level 6 studies. Students who successfully complete the competencies will then be able to claim Graduate Practitioner Status (GPS).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Early Years & Primary Practice with Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,790 per year
Part-time UK	£2,447.4 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£15,900 per year
Part-time EU/International	£3,990 per 30 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).