



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership



Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy Notice 2024/25

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
Craig Abbs (Headteacher)	
Date of next review	September 2026

Definition:

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a method of assessment [leading to the award of credit] that considers whether learners can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they already possess and do not need to develop through a course of learning.

Please see the below statement from Soundwell Academy's Head of Centre in regards to RPL

Message from Head of Centre:

Pupils at Soundwell Academy do not have prior accredited learning due to their age on entry to the Academy and their Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). (Pupils are usually admitted between the ages of 8 and 11 years old).

Candidates will be made aware that where they can evidence experiential learning which meets the requirements of the course such as through music or sporting achievements, this can be discussed on a case-by-case basis with the assessor and internal verifier to see if it meets the criteria set out in Trinity College London, NCFE and Pearson's RPL policy.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/Support/policies-for-centres-learners-and-employees/recognition-of-prior-learning-and-process-policy.pdf>

<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/media/qgvfhw2/recognition-of-prior-learning-rpl-credit-accumulation-transfer-policy.pdf>

Introduction:

The aim of this Recognition of prior learning (RPL) Policy is to provide a framework for the recognition of the prior learning of individuals who wish to enrol in the courses offered by our centre. This policy aims to ensure that individuals who possess prior learning are given appropriate credit for their existing knowledge and skills, and are offered the opportunity to progress through the course at a pace that is appropriate to their level of understanding. Our principle is to uphold standards set by NCFE, Pearson and Trinity College London.

Policy Statement:

Soundwell Academy recognizes the value of prior learning and experiences of our learners. We believe that this knowledge and experience should be acknowledged, and learners should be given an opportunity to use it as a basis for further learning. Therefore, our policy is designed to:

- Ensure that learners who have previously gained knowledge, skills and experiences that are relevant to the course(s) they wish to study can gain recognition for their prior learning.
- Offer flexible entry routes for learners to access their desired course of study, recognizing their current skills and knowledge.
- Ensure that the process for RPL is fair, transparent, reliable, and valid, and reflects the requirements of the NCFE accreditation standards.

Procedure:

Eligibility:

Learners who have completed formal, non-formal or informal learning, gained work experience or other relevant learning and have evidence to demonstrate their learning, are eligible for RPL.

Assessment Process:

Learners applying for RPL will be assessed based on the evidence they provide to demonstrate their prior learning, knowledge, and skills. The evidence should be valid, authentic, and relevant to the learning outcomes of the course for which the RPL is requested. The assessment will be carried out by an experienced and qualified assessor appointed by the centre.

Evidence Collection:

Learners should provide evidence that demonstrates their prior learning, knowledge and skills. This may include academic transcripts, certificates of attendance, portfolios, work samples, references or testimonials from employers, and other relevant documents.

Assessment Criteria:

The assessment of RPL will be based on the same criteria used for the assessment of learning outcomes of the course(s) for which the RPL is requested. This will ensure that the prior learning evidence presented is valid, reliable, and directly relates to the learning outcomes of the course.

Credit Transfer:

Once the assessment is completed, learners will be awarded credits towards their chosen course of study. This may reduce the amount of time they need to spend on the course and reduce the cost of tuition fees.

Appeals Process:

If a learner is not satisfied with the assessment outcome or believes that the assessment process was not conducted fairly or transparently, they may appeal the decision. The appeals process will be clearly outlined in the RPL assessment guide.

Monitoring and Review:

The RPL policy will be monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective, efficient and complies with the Pearson and NCFE accreditation standards.

Conclusion:

The RPL policy at our centre is designed to recognize and value the prior learning of our learners. We believe that this policy will enable our learners to achieve their full potential and ensure that they are given the opportunity to progress through their chosen course(s) at an appropriate pace. Our commitment to the RPL policy will ensure that we provide quality education and training that meets the diverse needs of our learners.