

Why take this course?

If you are an enthusiastic and committed early years professional with a desire to continue to develop, this course will be right for you. Designed in direct response to the government's increasing focus on early years learning, it is endorsed by the Early Years sector and can lead into an honours degree programme.

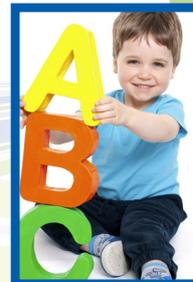
A key component of this degree is the application of the ideas and information you learn in the taught sessions in your workplace.

What opportunities might it lead to?

You will already be working within early years, on a paid or voluntary basis, when you begin this course. Your work-based learning will be developed and formalised in your studies with us. As you review your own practice and knowledge, you will enhance your prospects in this field, you may also wish to consider progression to an honours degree.

Why study at St Vincent

St Vincent College has a first class track record in the delivery of this course over the past 14 years. The class sizes are small meaning that ALL individuals receive personal tutorial support and guidance. Tutors all have wide and varied experience of the vocational sector along with strong academic qualifications and current research skills. The College learning centre holds a wide range of resources and is open daily for all students with knowledgeable staff able to help students in their search for information. You can also study and gain your Maths and English GCSE at NO additional cost whilst doing your foundation degree. If you intend to progress to Early Years Teacher Status you will need both of these. Parking on site is free and childcare is available in the adjoining nursery (subject to space). The College is on a public bus route and close to the Gosport Ferry link to Portsmouth and the train station.



Compare us through UNISTATS

- Students agreed staff made the subject interesting 100%
- The library resources and services are good enough for my needs 91%
- I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to 91%
- Feedback on my work has been prompt 75%
- *"I feel more confident as I now have increased knowledge"*
- *"My knowledge and experience has increased and some of what I have learned I have been able to bring into my setting"*

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Please phone us on 02392 603607 or
contact via email: admissions@stvincent.ac.uk

Career Prospects

As well as developing your skills in your current workplace, the FdA Early Years and Education is good preparation for the BA Education and Training Studies, a part-time top-up which offers the opportunity to gain an honours degree in education and training. The skills and knowledge gained in this course may also prepare the way for entry into teacher training through PGCE or SCITT programmes, or to Early Years Teacher Status.

Structure and Teaching

Over the three years of the course you will consider your practice and develop your knowledge in:

- Child development and learning
- Planning and organising the curriculum
- Working with others

There will also be opportunities to improve personal skills related to your work-based setting and academic requirements. The first year of study concentrates on practice related to working with children; we look at aspects of play and learning, planning the curriculum, managing individuals and groups as well as inclusion. In the second year we look at the impact of working with others through professional collaboration and safeguarding children, as well as working with parents. We also study the impact of ICT on children's learning and develop some research skills.

The final year of study enables you to conduct a small practitioner enquiry related to an area of practice that is of interest and relevance within the workplace. We develop further understanding of the child through exploring cognitive and psycho-social development and you will review your own practice and learning that has occurred over the three-year programme.

Teaching Assessment

This course is part time and students attend their study centre for the equivalent of a four-hour session per week during term time. These sessions are arranged so that students can benefit from working in groups as well as attending presentations and lectures.

Lectures provide a basic grounding in a particular topic, regular group seminars and discussions allow for opportunities to explore ideas and share good practice. One-to-one tutorials will help develop learning and key skills and will be instrumental in monitoring your progress.

Additionally, some topics will be taught through distance learning via the online learning environment.

Students are encouraged to find a workplace mentor who will also support you in your practice by acting as a critical friend in your reflection and thinking about personal and professional development.

How are you assessed?

Coursework assessment takes a variety of different forms including case studies, reflective reports, essays, presentations and group work.

You will be provided with clear assessment criteria for all your assignments and tutorial support to help you understand academic requirements.

Current course fee £2300. Student loans available.

Entry Requirements

- Please refer to the College. NVQ Level 3 in Early Years or equivalent. Formal qualifications, life long learning and experience are also considered.

- Applicants are to be working in either a voluntary or paid early years setting for a minimum of 12 hours per week. All applicants are subject to interview.

Student Successes



Student:

Now studying for a BSc in Communication Science following successfully completing the Foundation Degree at St Vincent.

Final Destination:

Teacher

“wonderful supportive staff at St Vincent - would highly recommend”



Student:

BA Honours in Education and Training following successfully completing the Foundation Degree at St Vincent.

Final Destination:

Early Years Teaching

“I would highly recommend the course. It was exciting and challenging and the support from the lecturers was fantastic!”