

Overview

The CFI Level 2 Certificate in Integrative Education is a nationally recognised (Ofqual-regulated) qualification awarded by Crossfields Institute.

Integrative Education qualifications are designed to support young people to develop as independent learners, thinkers and problem-solvers.

From January to July 2026, learners will complete three Level 2 modules through a single, integrated programme built around an Independent Project.

What learners will do

Learners will:

- choose a project based on their interests or aspirations
- plan and manage their work over time within a clear framework
- research across more than one curriculum area
- develop research, practical, communication and reflection skills
- reflect on challenges, changes and learning
- present their work to a familiar audience

They will be supported through:

- individual mentoring sessions
- project and research studios with supportive peers
- guidance on planning, reflection and presentation

It is particularly well suited to home-educated learners who:

- learn best through projects and exploration
- benefit from autonomy with structured support
- want meaningful, recognised qualifications
- may not thrive in high-pressure exam environments

Learners do not need to be 'academic' in a traditional sense, but they do need to be willing to:

- plan and manage a longer piece of work
- reflect on their learning
- engage consistently over the January-July period

How is the programme structured?

1. Project Studios (fortnightly, 2 hours)

These group sessions form the backbone of the programme and support learners to:

- plan and review progress
- develop research and organisational skills
- share resources and ideas
- give and receive peer feedback
- maintain journals and evidence

2. Research & Skills Studios (4 sessions)

In the final week of each half term, the Project Studio focuses specifically on shared skills such as:

- research methods and comparing sources
- recording evidence and journalling effectively
- using relevant technologies and tools
- presentation skills and reflective evaluation

These sessions replace the usual Project Studio for that week. No additional hours are added.

3. Individual Mentoring

Each learner is supported by a named Project Mentor, who provides guidance, feedback and support throughout the project, including:

- project planning and scope
- mid-project review
- final reflection and preparation for presentation

4. Independent Project Work

Learners complete a significant portion of their work independently, with time logged through journals, research records and project evidence.

5. Final Presentation Event

In July, learners present their project outcomes and personal conclusions to a familiar audience.

Assessment and qualification

The Certificate includes three assessed modules:

- Independent Project
- Creative Thinking Skills
- Personal & Social Learning Skills

Assessment is based on:

- a project plan and research record including a mid-project and final review
- a learning journal completed regularly
- a substantial final outcome (written report, presentation, performance, body of creative or practical work)
- a final presentation and reflection on personal conclusions and project outcomes

There are no exams. Assessment focuses on process, reflection and outcomes, supported by evidence gathered over time. All work is assessed against published learning outcomes.

How much time will my child need to commit each week?

This will vary depending on the learner and the project, but as a general guide:

- Studios: approximately 2 hours every fortnight
- Independent project work: an average of 4-6 hours per week
- Evidence log for Creative Thinking Skills/Personal & Social Skills - The evidence log usually takes around 20 minutes a week and often less. It's a way for learners to capture and reflect on learning they are already doing rather than additional work

The Independent Project qualification requires 120 Guided Learning Hours across the January-July period, which includes independent work, mentoring and studios.

How big is the cohort?

The initial cohort will be up to 15 learners allowing for meaningful peer interaction, appropriate mentoring support and a calm, focused learning environment

What if my child needs more support than average?

Additional mentoring can be arranged where needed, subject to availability.

Any additional support is:

- discussed transparently
- agreed in advance
- charged separately

This ensures the core programme remains accessible while allowing flexibility for individual needs.

What if my child's project changes?

Project changes are expected and accepted.

Learners:

- complete mid-project and end-of-project reviews
- reflect on challenges and changes
- are assessed on their learning process, not just outcomes

Mentors support learners to adapt plans realistically.

Cost

The cost of the programme is £350 per learner and can be paid in two installments January to July 2026.

This fee covers:

- awarding body registration and certification
- individual mentoring support
- assessment and quality assurance
- final presentation event

This pilot cohort benefits from external funding that supports programme setup and development. In future years, costs may increase modestly to reflect centre approval fees.

How does the cost compare to a GCSE for private learners?

For context:

- Private GCSE exam entry alone often costs £150-£500+ per subject
- These fees typically do not include teaching, mentoring or preparation

The Integrative Education Modules:

- are GCSE-equivalent in level
- include structured learning, mentoring, assessment and certification
- are completed over six months or more with ongoing support
- develops transferable skills valued in further study and employment

Many families find this represents better value and a more supportive experience than exam-only routes.

Is this the same as a GCSE?

It is equivalent in level, but different in format.

A GCSE:

- is usually assessed through timed exams
- focuses on a specific subject
- often requires exam-centre entry for private learners

The Independent Project Award:

- is assessed through a mentored project
- integrates learning across multiple curriculum areas
- values planning, research, reflection and communication
- is completed over time rather than in one exam sitting

Many families choose this pathway because it better reflects how their child learns.

Is this qualification recognised?

Yes. The Integrative Education pathway are Ofqual-regulated Level 2 qualifications, awarded by Crossfields Institute.

Each module within the Integrative Education Diploma framework is Level 2, meaning it is equivalent in level and weighting to a GCSE.

It can be used as part of a broader qualifications portfolio and supports progression into further study, training or alternative pathways.

Progression beyond July

The qualification can then form part of a broader learning or qualifications portfolio.

Learners who complete the Certificate will be eligible to progress to the CFI Level 2 Diploma in Integrative Education by completing at least one further Level 2 module from September 2026.

Options are likely to be:

- Natural Sciences
- Performing Arts
- Global Awareness
- Art, Craft & Design
- Movement

Further modules will become available at DHECH in either January 2027 or September 2027.

Will there be additional provision available for 14+ learners at DHECH?

In time, we would like to introduce supportive provision for children to be able to take GCSE and/or Functional Skills qualifications in English Language, Maths & Science.

Already in place at DHECH for 14+ learners:

- Arts Awards through to Gold
- Science CREST Awards gradually being offered through to Gold

Any additional 14+ provision information will be released as and when available. Once our first IE cohort begin, logistics for remaining 14+ provision and realistic time frames will be published.

Next Steps

If you would like your child to be considered for the January 2026 cohort, please register your interest with the Hub by emailing Una dhechub@outlook.com

Please be aware that places are limited, and interest does not guarantee a place.

Final timetabling and venues will be confirmed once staff availability and venues are finalised.