



Ref: TB/Wilson Stuart School

02 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: English Speaking Board – Letter of Support for 14-16 Funding of Qualifications**

I would like to express my disappointment that some of the Entry Level qualifications will no longer be funded in the 16-19 category: for our learners at Wilson Stuart School and the adult learners at The Hive College these accreditations have been beneficial.

We have used many of these qualifications to be cut but in particular:

Entry Level Award in Developing Oral Interview Skills (Entry 2)

ESB Entry Level Award in Oral Communication in the Community (Entry 2)

ESB Entry Level Award in Oral Interview Skills (Entry 3)

Each of these qualifications has provided the correct level of content and challenge for our adult learners, particularly those with speech, language, and communication needs. The emphasis on adult outcomes has always been beneficial: phone calls, interviews, CV writing, answering questions and responding to others appropriately and listening skills- many of our adults achieve supported, paid employment and for others volunteering in the community becomes more achievable- so these qualifications have been invaluable in preparing them for employability and volunteering.

We have also found the visits from the external examiners to be another invaluable part of the process - the interaction with an unfamiliar person provides another 'real life' experience in a very constructive way.

We believe the funding for these courses should be reinstated for the 16-19 category.

Best wishes

**Trish Bowden**

**Director of English and Communication**