

Programme Specification

Postgraduate Diploma Counselling Children and Young People (11-18)

MA Counselling Children and Young People (11-18)

<i>School:</i>	School of Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	Counselling
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2021-22
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Counselling Children and Young People (11-18) Postgraduate Diploma Counselling Children and Young People (11-18)
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Benchmark statement for Counselling & Psychotherapy
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	MA - Part time for 2 years PGDip - Part time 18 months
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)/MA in Counselling Children and Young People (11-18) programme will appeal to counsellors trained in working with adults and who wish to expand their therapeutic practice to work with children and young people in a range of therapeutic environments. The aim of the MA is to enable counselling practitioners to gain knowledge and competence in working with children and young people in an ethical and effective way. This programme is developmental and provides integrated training in theory, process and skills as prescribed by the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) training curriculum for working with children and young people. Before joining the programme, you will be expected to hold membership of the BACP or equivalent membership association. Hours gained working with children and young people whilst on this programme can be counted towards application for BACP individual membership accreditation.

Programme overview

The PGDip/MA is a two-year part-time programme designed for counselling practitioners to gain theoretical and practical experience of working with children and young people aged 11 to 18 years old. This programme is based on the BACP Training Curriculum for working with young people, which has been

developed in response to the increasing concern regarding the mental health of young people. The theoretical basis of the programme is humanistic-integrative, with equal weight given to the study of theory, developing the skills practice of working with children and young people and the exploration of your own personal development. After the first term of year one you will be expected to have secured and be counselling in a suitable placement working with children and young people. In order to complete the programme (PGDip/MA) you will need to gain a total of 50 hours of supervised practice; this will need to have been achieved by the end of the module Skills in Counselling Children and Young People 2. Providing you have successfully passed all of the relevant module assessments you could choose to exit the programme at this point and gain the PGDip in Counselling Children and Young People or you could continue on to complete the full MA.

The first year is divided into three areas; gaining the knowledge and understanding of working ethically and therapeutically with children and young people; developing practice skills whilst working within a placement setting; and developing yourself as a practitioner using a personal development model.

The second year builds upon the theoretical and experiential framework created in year one. Students who wish to achieve the PG Diploma will complete all of year one and the first term of year two. Students wishing to gain the MA Counselling Children and Young People (11-18) will go on to undertake a further two terms where they will study the Research Investigation module and go on to complete a dissertation module in their final term. It important to note here that research skills are embedded throughout the programme, thus ensuring students wishing to carry on to the MA will be adequately prepared to complete the final dissertation.

The programme runs over 30 weeks each year, starting in September and finishing in June. You will attend one full day per week in term time. A contact day will normally contain elements of counselling theory, counselling practice, peer supervision, and personal development activities. Students will be expected to attend 100% of classes, with 80% as the minimum attendance required to pass the course.

On successful completion of the PG Diploma you will satisfy the requirements for the BACP training curriculum for working with children and young people. This programme is one of the first of its kind to offer this training curriculum.

The academic team at York St John University has a 30-year tradition of training counsellors. All members of the team are experienced practitioners, trainers and are active within the counselling research community.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must have:

- An undergraduate degree or other recognised professional qualification.
- You must hold an initial counsellor training qualification for working with adults and be a member of a recognised professional body (such as the BACP)
- Experience of counselling practice working with adults or children.
- You will be interviewed prior to being offered a place on the programme and subject to submitting a successful application.

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

1. To prepare students to work ethically and safely with children and young people aged 11-18.
2. To facilitate the further development of effective, ethically minded, theoretically informed, self-aware, reflexive humanistic counselling practitioners working with children and young people.
3. The critical appraisal of research relating to counselling which demonstrates a research-informed approach to counselling children and young people.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Locate and critically discuss the theory and practice of counselling children and young people in its organisational, social and cultural context
- 7.2 Demonstrate effective and ethical counselling practice for children and young people.
- 7.3 Recognise and address ethical issues and dilemmas in relation to professional and personal values
- 7.4 Evidence understanding of the importance of personal awareness to effective, ethical counselling practice whilst demonstrating a self-aware and non-defensive stance
- 7.5 Critically reflect upon their professional and personal development as a counselling practitioner including their use of and learning from counselling supervision, and upon the application of this learning to their counselling practice
- 7.6 Critically appraise research relating to counselling, and demonstrate a research- informed approach to their counselling practice
- 7.7 Recognise the potential impact of difference and diversity on the counselling process, and demonstrate personal awareness in relation to issues of difference and diversity

Programme structure

PGDip Counselling Children and Young People (11-18)

Code	Level	Year	Terms	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
COU7008M	7	1	1,2 & 3	Counselling Children & Young People 1	15	C	NC
COU7009M	7	1	1,2 & 3	Self and personal development 1	15	C	NC
COU7010M	7	1	2 & 3	Skills in Counselling Children & Young People 1	30	C	NC
COU7011M	7	2	1	Counselling Children & Young People 2	15	C	NC
COU7012M	7	2	1	Self and personal development 2	15	C	NC
COU7013M	7	2	1	Skills in Counselling Children and Young People 2	30	C	NC

MA Counselling Children and Young People (11-18)

Code	Level	Year	Terms	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
COU7008M	7	1	1,2 & 3	Counselling Children & Young People 1	15	C	NC
COU7009M	7	1	1,2 & 3	Self and personal development 1	15	C	NC
COU7010M	7	1	2 & 3	Skills in Counselling Children & Young People 1	30	C	NC
COU7011M	7	2	1	Counselling Children & Young People 2	15	C	NC
COU7012M	7	2	1	Self and personal development 2	15	C	NC

COU7013M	7	2	1	Skills in Counselling Children and Young People 2	30	C	NC
COU7014M	7	2	2 & 3	Research Investigation	60	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50) in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

The Postgraduate Diploma/MA Children and Young People (11-18) includes lectures, seminars, small group work (including skills practice and group supervision), individual tutorials and self-directed learning. Lecture sessions involve a combination of didactic teaching and more experiential forms of learning. Staff will take responsibility for the development of a learning context which is personally and professionally challenging and meaningful. The programme allows for a balance between structure and flexibility. Tutors seek to embody the humanistic principles on which the programme is based. This translates in practice into the creation of a safe, mutually respectful learning environment in which you will be able to engage productively with personally challenging learning materials and participate in experiential activities. In light of the nature of the programme you are therefore required to engage actively in learning activities and a high premium is placed on attendance, both in terms of learning and BACP requirements. Continuous reflection upon the learning experience is encouraged through Review Partner dialogues, individual tutorials, and use of a reflective journal. It is recognised that as you will only spend 1 day a week on the University campus during the Postgraduate Diploma/MA you will need appropriate supported learning facilities. The Supported Open Learning element of the programme comprises peer review partners, guided reading and study, journal writing and involvement in discussions on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The University VLE represents an additional tool for communication and interactive learning activities. An introduction to this will form part of your initial programme induction.

Assessment consists of on-going formative feedback over the duration of the Postgraduate Diploma/MA and summative assessment at the end of each module. Summative assessment will include an essay, case study, presentation and evaluation of a counselling session, and a personal development profile. Formative feedback and assessment are provided by tutors verbally and/or in written form during skills practice sessions, in group supervision and in individual tutorials. In skills practice sessions, group supervision and at peer review meetings there are also observation and feedback systems in place that will give you the opportunity to give and receive peer feedback, develop reflexivity and self-assessment skills. Additionally, you will receive regular, on-going formative feedback on your counselling practice from a University approved external supervisor. In addition, if you progress onto the MA award pathway general teaching sessions on the Research Investigation module are a blend of face-to-face contact, dissertation supervision and virtual learning exercises. There is formative feedback and the VLE will continue to be a repository for teaching materials. You will keep your academic tutor support and tutorials will be available with tutors teaching on the module.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules which must be passed for progression for award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

On successful completion of the modules required for the PG Diploma it is possible to transfer onto the MA. This will need to be considered before the award of the PG Diploma.

Late result modules

This programme contains the following modules, where the result of the first attempt is not known in time for the June School Assessment Panels (or equivalent level progression point for non-standard entry points). This may delay progression to the next level of study.

- *COU7014M Research Investigation*

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-counselling-psychotherapy.pdf?sfvrsn=fde2f781_10
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- BACP Training Curriculum for working with CYP 11-18.

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: