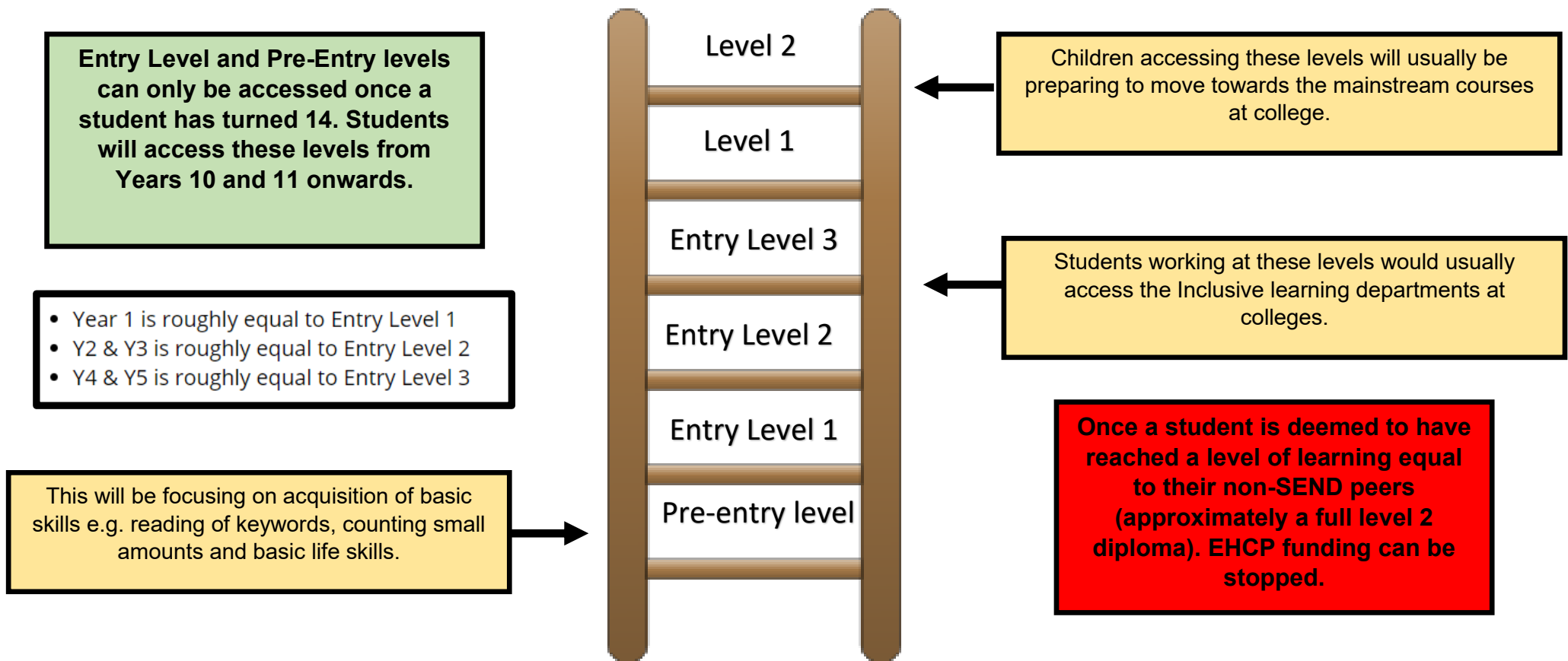


## White Spire School – Qualifications Explained

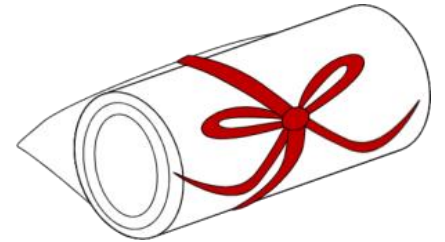


White Spire School is a special school for children with a range of complex needs. We do not do GCSEs unless there are exceptional circumstances. We work on Entry Level Qualifications.

Entry Level qualifications are a lower level than GCSEs. They can be thought of as approximately two steps before GCSEs on the exam ladder. We believe they are ideal for students who have SEND as they enable them to complete work relevant to their ability and secure qualifications. They also allow us to celebrate their massive achievements.



## White Spire School – Qualifications Explained



### Qualifications:

**Unit Award** – this may be a single unit worked on in a subject. They can be achieved from Pre-entry level all the way through to Level 2. These are the shortest/smallest qualifications available in terms of learning hours required. Students can achieve a range of certificates to evidence their skills, knowledge and experience.

**Award** – this involves achieving a number of credits. This will be achieved by working on particular modules and producing a portfolio of work. Modules have a set number of learning hours, objectives and outcomes. There can be different credits, learning hours and outcomes for different modules. This work is verified by the Exam boards. Each module is set by the exam board and has a number of credits.

**Certificate** – this involves achieving a number of credits. This will be achieved by working on particular modules there are mandatory and optional modules. Each module involves producing a portfolio of work. Units/topics have a set number of learning hours, objectives and outcomes. There can be different credits, learning hours and outcomes for different modules. This work is verified by the Exam boards. Each module is set by the exam board and has a number of credits.

**Other Qualifications** – some subjects offer their own nationally recognised qualifications e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the Art Awards.



When students attend college open days, interviews or job interviews they will be asked about their levels. This is shared in EHCP plans, parents evening and reports.

When students complete a course we claim their qualification from the exam board. When students leave us they will receive all paperwork related to their qualifications they need to keep this safe.