Off-the-job training: steps to help you determine whether an activity counts as off-the-job training

1. Off-the-job training must make up at least 20% of the apprentice’s normal working hours (normal working hours are capped at 30 hours a week for funding purposes only). For a full-time apprentice, this is an average of 6 hours per week over the planned duration of the apprenticeship.

2. Off-the-job training must be away from the productive job role, but this doesn’t mean it must be away from the workplace. Training can take place at the employer’s premises, off-site (e.g. in a provider classroom) or at home (e.g. distance learning).

3. Time spent on initial assessment and onboarding, English and maths, training not required by the apprenticeship standard, progress reviews, examinations and other testing, and training which takes place outside the apprentice’s normal working hours does not count towards off-the-job training.

Key facts:

- Is it directly relevant to the apprenticeship standard or framework? YES / NO
- Is it teaching new knowledge, skills and behaviours? YES / NO
- Is it taking place within the apprentice’s normal working hours? YES / NO
- Does it exclude ineligible activities such as initial assessment and English and maths (see fact 3 below)? YES / NO

This counts as off-the-job training

This isn't off-the-job training