

**Transition plan**  
**Cardiothoracic Surgery & Congenital Cardiac Surgery curricula**  
**from August 2026**

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Trainees should follow the August 2026 version as they enter specialty training or move into a new training level. The updated syllabus aligns with the latest surgical practice as well as new developments, ensuring a much better-prepared consultant surgeon. Training Programme Directors and Assigned Educational Supervisors should make provision at the earliest opportunity to allow for trainees to adapt their training accordingly.

Details about the changes and why they have been made can be found [here](#).

**All specialty trainees will be expected to be following the new curriculum by the start of the 2028 academic year (from 2 August 2028).**

Training level to be entered on or after 5 August 2026	Requirement	Guidance
ST1 run-through	Use the new 2026 curriculum	Trainees entering specialty training must follow the new curriculum from the start of the specialty programme.
ST4 Thoracic (entry 2026)	Use the new 2026 curriculum	Trainees must follow the new curriculum as they move into phase 2 of training.
ST5 to ST7 run-through, uncoupled or thoracic entry	Remain on previous curriculum	Trainees entering the final phase of specialty training may remain on the previous curriculum.
Congenital Cardiac Sub-specialty	Use the new 2026 curriculum	Trainees must follow the new curriculum as they move into sub-specialty training
Out of Programme (OOP)	Remain or Transfer	<p>Trainees who have taken time out of Out of Programme may remain on the previous curriculum while at their previous training level but should follow the new curriculum when they move to a new level.</p> <p><i>For example, a trainee returning from OOP to continue in ST4 in August 2026 may remain on the previous curriculum until they move to ST5.</i></p> <p>However, if their next training level is in the final phase of training they may finish training on the previous curriculum.</p>
Statutory leave (e.g. maternity/paternity/adoption leave)	Remain or Transfer	<p>Trainees returning from statutory leave may remain on the previous curriculum while at their previous training level but should follow the new curriculum when they move to a new level.</p> <p>However, if their next training level is in the final phase of training they may finish training on the previous curriculum.</p>

Less than full time (LTFT)	Remain or Transfer	<p>Trainees who are LTFT may remain on the previous curriculum until they move to the next training level when they should follow the new curriculum.</p> <p><i>For example, a 50% LTFT trainee after one year at ST4 (6 months equivalent) by August 2026 may remain on the previous curriculum until August 2027 (12 months equivalent) and follow the new curriculum when they enter ST5.</i></p> <p>However, if their next training level is in the final phase of training they may finish training on the previous curriculum.</p>
Portfolio pathway applicants	Remain or Transfer	<p>If applicants wish to apply under the previous curriculum they may do so for up to 12 months from release of the new curriculum</p>