

## Thrive Advanced Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship



### At a glance

Funding value **£12,000**

Apprentice qualifies as a  
**Level 5 Specialist Teaching Assistant,**  
a **Thrive Advanced Practitioner**  
and a **Family Thrive Course Leader**

World-class blended training  
across 18 months



# Thrive Advanced Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship

The Thrive Advanced Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship is an 18-month long apprenticeship that builds on existing wellbeing knowledge to amplify a professional's impact with children and young people across educational settings, including early years, primary, secondary, special schools, and further education institutions.

## Course overview

The Thrive Advanced Practitioner Apprenticeship is a triple-qualification programme delivered by Best Practice Network and Thrive Licensed Trainers. The 18-month, work-based course is equivalent to a foundation degree. It's designed for teaching assistants (and those in similar support roles) who are looking to upskill, progress their careers, and build on their existing expertise in social and emotional support for learners.

Upon successful completion, the apprentice will qualify as a Level 5 Specialist Teaching Assistant, a Thrive Advanced Practitioner and a Family Thrive Course Leader.

As part of the application standard, apprentices will be trained to plan, implement and adapt activities that guide pupils through challenges, as well as advocate for their needs and create a culture of empathy and inclusion.

The Thrive elements of the training equip apprentices to enhance current provision, upskill other staff, work with key stakeholders, assess SEND provision in the classroom and support children and young people with mental health and wellbeing concerns.

The programme will also support apprentices to signpost and refer through collaboration, review curriculum implementation and make recommendations, monitor and evaluate Thrive practice, coach and mentor others, evaluate and report on the impact of Thrive interventions, bring the Thrive Approach to parents and carers, use policies and procedures appropriately and further embed Thrive across the setting.

Collaborating with teachers, parents, carers and professionals, Thrive Advanced Practitioners play a pivotal role in helping pupils thrive both personally and academically, making them invaluable members of the school community.

## Who it's for

The apprenticeship is suitable for teaching assistants (or those in similar support roles) who are working directly with children or young people in a classroom environment and is most appropriate for those who have previously completed Thrive Licensed Practitioner training. Aside from teaching assistants, potential apprentices may currently be working as attendance mentors, behaviour leads, higher level teaching assistants (HLTAs), learning mentors, social and emotional wellbeing teaching assistants, special education support staff or specialist learning support staff.

## Apprenticeship training with Best Practice Network

The apprenticeship equips learners with a broad range of sought-after skills. Key areas covered in the training include:

- **Create a nurturing environment:**  
Foster safe and stimulating spaces that encourage learning and development.
- **Build effective relationships:**  
Work collaboratively with learners, parents, and colleagues, ensuring positive and professional engagement.
- **Apply advanced teaching strategies:**  
Use techniques such as scaffolding and formative assessments to advance learning outcomes.
- **Develop and evaluate learning plans:**  
Contribute to planning, selecting resources, and analysing assessment outcomes to inform future teaching.
- **Specialist knowledge:**  
Apply critical understanding to plan, implement, evaluate and adapt activities to advance learning.
- **Champion inclusivity and wellbeing:**  
Advocate for learners' needs while supporting equality, diversity, and emotional wellbeing.
- **Plan sequences of teaching:**  
Be informed by a critical understanding of well-established principles in relation to curriculum, assessment and pedagogy.
- **Enhance personal and professional development:**  
Reflect on practice, seek feedback, prioritise their wellbeing and manage their workload.

## Thrive training with Licensed Trainers includes:

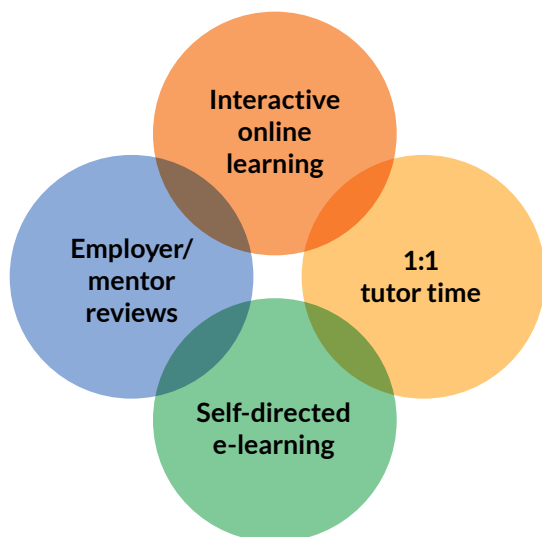
- **Auditing provision:**  
e.g. assess practice in the classroom and Thrive spaces. Review how group action plans are conducted. Identify how Thrive is rolled out to teachers. Support towards Ambassador School and School of Excellence status.
- **Staff knowledge and upskilling:**  
Learn how to engage others with Thrive practice. Access tried-and-tested resources

to train, onboard and upskill all colleagues appropriately and embed the Approach into the fabric of the setting and community.

- **SEND:**  
e.g. appraise and enhance provision in the classroom and for individuals with specific needs. Understand when and how to introduce appropriate approaches to support social and emotional development.
- **Mental health and wellbeing:**  
Improve the mental health and wellbeing of the children and young people in the setting. Access content to support pupils with specific concerns (e.g. self-harm, eating disorders, social media, loss). Learn how to intervene appropriately to prevent escalation.
- **Curriculum implementation:**  
e.g. review how the current timetable is working. Coach staff to get the most out of Thrive-Online action plans. Access new activity packs for use with pupils covering topics including the 3-part brain and stress regulation system.
- **Monitoring, evaluating, measuring and reporting:**  
e.g. assess the progression of individual pupils and learn how to illustrate their journey using stories and data. Showcase the impact and value of Thrive for accountable bodies including Ofsted and SIAMS. Write progress reports for SENDCos, DSLs or fostering champions.
- **Coaching, mentoring and supervision:**  
Master coaching, mentoring and supervision of others to foster personal growth, address specific challenges, provide feedback or drive effectiveness as appropriate.
- **Policies and procedures:**  
e.g. ensure existing guidance is being followed in the classroom. Write, communicate and embed new relational policies and procedures into everyday practice. Learn how to use restraint and positive handling appropriately.
- **Working with parents and carers:**  
Qualify as a Family Thrive Course Leader. Communicate Thrive theory and practice in an accessible way to parents and carers. Support families to understand how Thrive is used at school. Deliver an impact on social and emotional development, as well as mental health and wellbeing, beyond the classroom.

## Training delivery and end-point assessment

The apprenticeship will be delivered using a blend of:



Apprentices also gain access to **BPN Boost**, a dedicated wellbeing and careers support programme featuring monthly webinars and a rich library of online resources. This holistic approach ensures every participant receives unparalleled wraparound support.

## Off-the-job training

Full-time apprentices are required to have six hours per week of off-the-job training, while part-time apprentices must allocate 20% of their working hours for this purpose. We will work with you to ensure this time is spent on activities that both build the apprentice's capabilities and benefit the organisation. For example, apprentices will be taught how to review and audit Thrive practice in their setting before implementing any necessary changes, then monitoring, evaluating and reporting on impact.

The 'off-the-job training' component includes activities like shadowing, mentoring, attending training events, interactive online learning, and completing tasks that build new skills and knowledge relevant to the apprenticeship. The exact blend of activities will be agreed with the apprentice and employer at the start of the programme, to meet your organisational needs.



## End-point assessment

There will be an end-point assessment carried out by an external End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO). The apprentice's tutor will ensure they are prepared for these assessments throughout the programme. The end-point assessment consists of an observation with questions and a professional discussion, underpinned by a portfolio of evidence.

## Eligibility

To be eligible, candidates need to:

- Be employed in a role working closely with children and young people.
- Have support from an employer and levy account holder.
- Have held UK residency for at least three years.
- Be based in England.
- Have achieved GCSE grade 9-4 (A\* - C) or equivalent in English and maths. If the candidate hasn't secured a grade 4 (C) or above in GCSE English and maths, they will be required to complete Functional Skills Level 2 in these areas. They will be fully supported by their tutors using a range of materials best suited to them.

Suitable job roles could be; teaching assistants, attendance mentors, behaviour leads, higher level teaching assistants, social and emotional wellbeing teaching assistants, specialist learning assistants, specialist learning support, and other support roles in a classroom environment.

This apprenticeship is particularly well suited to those who have previously trained as Thrive Licensed Practitioners (even if their licence has now expired).

## Qualifications

Successful candidates will qualify as a Level 5 Specialist Teaching Assistant, a Thrive Advanced Practitioner and a Family Thrive Course Leader so they can deliver Thrive training to parents and carers. They will also be able to use post-nominal designations to demonstrate their commitment to professional standards and showcase their credentials and skills.

## Funding routes

### £ If your setting contributes to the apprenticeship levy fund

Levy paying employers can access their fund contributions through their **apprenticeship service account**. You can use this service to manage the funds you have available for apprenticeship training in England.

### £ If your setting does not contribute to the apprenticeship levy fund

You pay 5% towards the cost of the training for your apprentice. The remaining 95% will be paid by the government.

### £ Apprenticeship levy transfer

Employers with unspent funds can transfer up to 50% of that contribution to another employer. That means you can benefit from the levy contributions of a different organisation to cover the full costs of an apprenticeship for your setting.

### £ If your setting has fewer than 50 employees

The rules above apply in the same way if your apprentice is over 24. However, there is an added incentive for training younger apprentices: if your apprentice is aged 16 to 18, or aged 19 to 24 with an EHCP, the 5% fee (if applicable) is waived, making the apprenticeship fully-funded by the government.

### £ Additional payments for employers

Employers will get an extra £1,000 when they take on an apprentice:

- aged 16 to 18
- aged 19 to 24 who has either:
  - previously been in care
  - an education, health and care plan

This is to help with additional costs associated with supporting them in the workplace.

To learn more about your funding options, [click here to download your guide to the apprenticeship levy](#).

## Why train with Best Practice Network?

Best Practice Network are offering a supercharged apprenticeship that combines the best of both worlds: Thrive's established expertise in social and emotional wellbeing and Best Practice Network's award-winning reputation as an Ofsted 'Good' training provider.

The apprenticeship brings together Thrive's proven track record of empowering educators to improve pupils' wellbeing with Best Practice Network's commitment to delivering a top-tier learning experience.

Rooted in neuroscience, child development and attachment theory research, Thrive has been working with educators and organisations to help children and young people fulfil their potential since 1994. In this time, Thrive has equipped over 75,000 professionals with the skills to positively impact the lives of more than 795,000 pupils, helping them to understand their emotions, build resilience and engage with learning.

Best Practice Network, Thrive's sister company within Supporting Education Group, was recognised with the prestigious Education and Childcare Apprenticeship Provider of the Year award at the ACC Awards in both 2023 and 2024. Driven by a mission to create positive change in education, Best Practice Network combines deep industry knowledge with a commitment to designing impactful programmes tailored to schools' needs.

Best Practice Network's training delivery and Thrive's wellbeing expertise ensure a transformative learning experience that empowers individuals, enriches school communities, and creates a lasting, positive impact on the lives of children and young people.



“ We have seen a drop in fixed-term exclusions of 73% and a significant reduction in referrals to external agencies. The staff benefit too. They feel more supported. This gives them greater confidence in spotting and working to address wellbeing or mental health concerns. ”

– Katie Parks, Rose Lane Primary School



## Thrive Advanced Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship

For further information and details  
on how to apply, click below.

[Find out more >](#)

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