

Wellbeing Specialist Teaching Assistant Level 5 Apprenticeship

At a glance

Funding value
£12,000

Apprentice qualifies
as a **Specialist Teaching
Assistant** and a **Thrive
Licensed Practitioner**

World-class **blended
training** across
18 months



Department
for Education



Apprenticeships

Ofsted
Good
Provider

Thrive Wellbeing Specialist Teaching Assistant Level 5 Apprenticeship

The Thrive Specialist Teaching Assistant Level 5 Apprenticeship is an 18-month long apprenticeship that prepares individuals to support learners across educational settings including early years, primary, secondary, special schools, and further education institutions.

Course overview

The Thrive Wellbeing Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship is a dual-qualification programme delivered by Best Practice Network. The 18-month, work-based course is equivalent to a foundation degree, and is designed for teaching assistants, and those in similar support roles, looking to upskill, progress their careers, and build expertise in social and emotional support for children and young people.

Upon successful completion, the apprentice will qualify as a Level 5 Specialist Teaching Assistant and as a Thrive Licensed Practitioner.

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 element of the training empowers apprentices to build pupils' self-confidence, resilience, and independence using evidence-based techniques that nurture social and emotional wellbeing and remove barriers to learning.

Collaborating with teachers, families, and professionals, Specialist Teaching Assistants play a pivotal role in helping pupils thrive both personally and academically, making them invaluable members of the school community.

Course content

The training equips apprentices with a broad range of advanced skills. Throughout the programme, they'll learn to:

- **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.

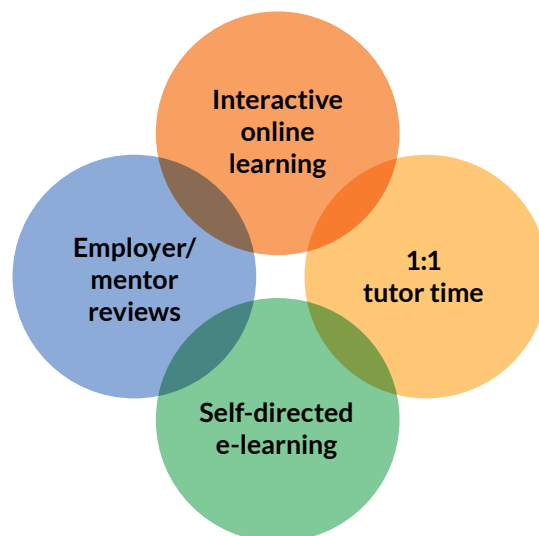
Who it's for

The apprenticeship is suitable for teaching assistants, or those in similar support roles, working directly with children and young people in a classroom environment. This may include attendance mentors, behaviour leads, higher level teaching assistants (HLTA), learning mentors, social and emotional wellbeing teaching assistants, special education support staff and specialist learning support colleagues.

It's ideal for individuals who are passionate about making a meaningful impact on pupil wellbeing and learning outcomes, and who wish to develop the skills to advocate for young peoples' needs. It's particularly beneficial to those who aspire to work closely with teachers, families, and external agencies to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment where every pupil can reach their potential.

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 assess and respond to a child's social and emotional needs using the Thrive Approach then tasked with applying this new knowledge to children in their setting and sharing their findings and recommendations with colleagues.

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 make sure that 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:

- Have a minimum of one year's experience in a relevant role.
- 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 assistant, specialist learning support and other support roles in a classroom environment.



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](#).

Qualifications

Successful candidates will qualify as a Level 5 Specialist Teaching Assistant and as a Thrive Licensed Practitioner. They will also be able to use post-nominal designations to demonstrate their commitment to professional standards and showcase their credentials and skills.

The benefits of Thrive Licensed Practitioner training

Thrive Licensed Practitioners are equipped with the skills and knowledge to nurture the emotional wellbeing and resilience of children and young people, enabling them to better manage stress, overcome challenges, and engage with life and learning.

The training explores the science behind behaviour, diving into the reasons behind pupils' actions. Practitioners learn practical strategies to respond 'in the moment' and discover how to build positive, trusting relationships – even with the most hard-to-reach young people.

Using Thrive-Online, Thrive's innovative assessment, action-planning, and progress-monitoring tool, Licensed Practitioners can pinpoint pupils' social and emotional needs and address underdeveloped skills. Tailored action plans provide targeted strategies and activities, empowering Practitioners to deliver focused 1:1 support that improves behaviour, attendance, and learning outcomes.

Working with a Thrive Licensed Practitioner can be life-changing for children and young people, while the training itself is often described by educators as "transformational," offering profound personal and professional growth.

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.

Seven reasons to embrace Thrive



To learn more about Thrive and hear first-hand from settings already using the Approach, download the Seven Reasons to Embrace Thrive brochure.

In the brochure, you'll discover:

- ✓ How Thrive's proactive approach helps prevent mental health problems
- ✓ The cost-saving benefits of lower rates of referrals to external agencies
- ✓ The wide-ranging impact of Thrive on children and staff wellbeing

[Download your copy >](#)

“Thrive training ignited a renewed passion in me and has helped enormously with my professional development. It truly was a lightbulb moment in my career.”

- Thrive Licensed Practitioner



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

[Find out more >](#)

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