



**PRIORY APPRENTICESHIPS**

# Specialist Teaching Assistant Level 5

## COURSE GUIDE

### Overview

Specialist teaching assistants play an essential role in supporting pupils with a wide range of learning needs. Their expertise helps improve access to learning, strengthen inclusive practice and enhance pupil progress across a setting. Our Level 5 programme develops advanced knowledge, specialist SEND strategies and confident, reflective practice—equipping learners to make a meaningful, high impact contribution to inclusive education.

### About Priory Apprenticeships

Priory Apprenticeships delivers high quality, nationally recognised training designed to strengthen workforce skills specifically for the Education sector. Rooted in our experience as part of a Multi-Academy Trust, our programmes combine expert tutors, practical learning and strong employer partnerships to develop confident, capable staff who make a meaningful impact in their roles.

[www.prioryapprenticeships.co.uk](http://www.prioryapprenticeships.co.uk)

# Why

## BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS

- Strengthens SEND provision across your setting  
Builds confident, knowledgeable practitioners who can work proactively with teachers and SENCOs
- Improves pupil outcomes through high quality, evidence based support
- Enhances inclusion and reduces barriers to learning
- Supports retention by investing in staff development and career progression
- Ensures SEND practice is aligned with national expectations and current best practice

## BENEFITS FOR LEARNERS

- Develops advanced SEND expertise and specialist strategies
- Builds confidence in supporting diverse and complex needs
- Enhances understanding of policies, assessment and curriculum adaptation
- Strengthens reflective practice, teamwork and professional behaviours  
Provides a nationally recognised Level 5 qualification
- Supports progression into roles such as Higher Level TA, Senior TA or specialist support posts

## How is the Programme Funded?

This programme is eligible for funding through the apprenticeship levy or Government Co-Investment. Employers may also be eligible for incentive payments from the Government for each learner on this course.

Course Value: £12000

Speak to us if you have any questions around programme funding.

## Requirements

### LEARNER

- Must be able to complete practical tasks and gather workplace evidence
- Should be committed to attending workshops (once per month) and completing assessments
- Must have employer support to complete off-the-job training  
Must not already hold a Teaching Assistant qualification at level 5 or above

### EMPLOYER

- Must provide a suitable role that allows the learner to practice skills and knowledge
- Must allow active learning time (roughly 6 hours per week)
- Must support project activity and access to relevant systems and information
- Should assign a line manager or mentor to support learner progress

# Typical Workshops

- 1 Induction**

This workshop introduces the programme, outlines expectations and supports you in preparing for your development journey as a specialist practitioner.
- 2 Navigating Educational Policies and Frameworks: SEND, Safety & Inclusion**

Explore key policies, legislation and frameworks that shape SEND provision, ensuring you understand your responsibilities around safety, inclusion and compliance.
- 3 Creating Powerful Learning Spaces: Environments That Promote Growth & Wellbeing**

Learn how to design and support learning environments that reduce barriers, promote independence and foster emotional wellbeing for diverse learners.
- 4 The Role of the Teaching Assistant: Navigating Policies & Ensuring Compliance**

Deepen your understanding of professional responsibilities, policies and expectations, and how these underpin safe and effective SEND support.
- 5 Unlocking Learning: Theories & Strategies for Pupil Independence and Growth**

Build knowledge of learning theories and practical strategies that develop pupil autonomy, confidence and long term learning skills.
- 6 Safe Technology & Learning Tools: Enhancing Learning with Risk Management**

Explore how to use digital tools and assistive technologies safely, effectively and creatively to support learning and accessibility.
- 7 Teaching for All: Strategies to Support the Diverse Learner**

Learn inclusive teaching approaches and adaptations that support pupils with a wide range of learning differences and complex needs.
- 8 Curriculum, Assessment & Pedagogy: The Power of Integrated Teaching**

Understand how curriculum, teaching and assessment work together, and how specialist TAs contribute to high quality, inclusive classroom practice.
- 9 Exploring Curriculum Types: Tailoring Learning for Diverse Needs**

Investigate different curriculum models and learn how to help adapt content and approaches for pupils with varied learning profiles.
- 10 Assessment in Action: Strategies to Support Every Learner**

Develop practical skills to observe learning, identify barriers and contribute to assessment processes that drive meaningful progress.

## Typical Workshops

- 11 Using Assessment to Drive Progress: Planning & Feedback for Success**  
Learn how to use assessment insights to shape support plans, interventions and effective feedback for individual learners.
- 12 Reflect, Adapt, Thrive: Enhancing Teaching, Feedback & Collaboration**  
Explore reflective practice and collaboration techniques that help refine teaching approaches and improve outcomes for pupils with SEND.
- 13 Balancing Success: Strategies for Personal Wellbeing, Growth & Collaboration**  
Develop strategies to maintain personal wellbeing, manage workload and collaborate effectively within multidisciplinary teams.
- 14 The Power of Professional Development: Enhancing Outcomes, Culture & Collaboration**  
Understand how ongoing professional development strengthens your practice and contributes to a positive, inclusive school culture.
- 15 Managing Workload, Maintaining Wellbeing & Recognising Personal Capacity**  
Learn practical approaches for balancing demands, prioritising tasks and maintaining safe limits while delivering high quality support.
- 16 SEND Specialism Session**  
A focused session exploring advanced SEND topics, specialist strategies and best practice approaches for supporting complex needs.

## How Long is the Programme?

The Specialist Teaching Assistant programme is completed over 24 months, plus a 3 month assessment period.

## How Will You Be Assessed?

Learners will be assessed throughout their programme and will be required to complete an end of programme assessment. During the programme learners build a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their leadership skills, behaviours and application within their workplace.

The EPA includes:

- A Professional Discussion – a structured conversation with an independent assessor, based on the learner's portfolio.
- A Work Based Observation – an assessor observes you applying specialist strategies and supporting learners in your setting.

## Get Started

### EMPLOYER

If you are an employer, you can nominate team members that you would like to complete this professional training. Scan the QR Code and complete the short form or get in touch via our contact information below.

### LEARNER

If you would like to enrol onto this programme yourself, speak to your line manager and they will support you. You can also reach out to us directly. Please note that we will need to contact your line manager to confirm you have support to complete the programme.



**PRIORITY APPRENTICESHIPS**

### CONTACT US

01522 889297

[prioryapprenticeships@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:prioryapprenticeships@prioryacademies.co.uk)

[www.prioryapprenticeships.co.uk](http://www.prioryapprenticeships.co.uk)

