



# Ark



## Head of School Review & Assurance

<b>Reports to:</b>	Director of Standards & Performance
<b>Location:</b>	2 to 3 days per week in schools/head office in White City, with 2 to 3 days remote working from home
<b>Contract:</b>	Permanent
<b>Start:</b>	1 September 2023 (or earlier by negotiation)
<b>Pattern:</b>	F/T ( <i>p/t available</i> )
<b>Salary:</b>	Highly competitive package, negotiable depending on experience

### About Ark

Ark is a growing network of 39 schools serving 30,000 pupils in England, with schools in Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth. Each of our schools has its own distinctive character, reflecting its local community, and our network achieves great results and destinations for young people, with some of our schools being among the best in the country.

### About the role:

This is an exciting new senior role within Ark Schools, to build on and lead our review cycle across schools. Our internal reviews and monitoring process has become a core part of our approach to school improvement, and we receive positive feedback from our school Principals about the quality, precision and supportive nature of our approach.

Few roles provide the opportunity to directly spotlight school improvement needs as well as provide insights into the design, implementation, and impact of our wider work. The appointed person must have previous experience of direct school improvement at a senior level, ideally through headship, as well as deep knowledge of the Ofsted framework, likely as an Ofsted Inspector or His Majesty's Inspector, with a working knowledge of both primary and secondary phases of education.

Our Standards and Performance function is determinedly focused on enabling Principals, Regional Directors and Central Team leaders to raise educational standards across the network. This small team will play a key role in ensuring that there is an accurate and shared view of each schools' performance while also providing central support functions with insights drawn from across our schools to help us to further shape our network wide priorities and improvement strategies. In particular, the team will look at the impact of our collective work on subject development, as well as the impact of our curriculum programmes and wider strategic priorities, enabling us to capture and codify best practice as well as identify areas for improvement.

You will report to the Director of Standards & Performance and will work with a wider review team of current Ofsted Inspectors and/or internally trained colleagues drawn from our central and school leadership teams. They will work closely with Regional Directors and central Heads of Teams to discuss strategies and approaches to driving school improvement.

They will be a strong communicator, be confident to provide challenge and candour to school leaders yet be empathetic and supportive in their approach.

### **Key Objectives**

Head of School Review & Assurance role is integral to our approach to ensure all of our schools provide an exceptional education to the pupils we serve. Your success will be measured through the quality of the school improvement insights drawn and shared with schools, alongside the validation of the accuracy of our knowledge of our schools through inspection and published outcomes.

### **Responsibilities and Duties**

- Lead school assurance visits, and establish and maintain a strong team of reviewers, ensuring aligned expectations and approach for school monitoring so that all schools encounter a common experience.
- Co-ordinate and manage the review visit annual calendar for schools, based on priority, quality assuring the process and outputs (which includes a written summary of strengths and areas for development).
- On visits to schools, provide support and challenge to leaders, highlighting strengths and describing areas for further development, aligned to the Ark education model.
- Lead network wide training to leaders at all levels of school in key and identified areas for improvement,, where appropriate.
- Provide insights into the delivery of our curriculum programmes, sharing feedback with subject network leads and Ark Curriculum Plus colleagues, as well as our Director of Curriculum & Assessment.
- Be able to provide feedback to schools' management teams and network central team leaders on the implementation and impact of network wide strategies.
- Produce a half termly insight report into the patterns, strengths and areas for further development that are observed across our schools, including implications for our central team priorities and activities.
- Provide support to the Director of Standards & Performance to ensure that schools are prepared for inspection and that we hold an accurate view of the performance of our schools against DfE benchmarks, Ofsted and our wider education standards.
- Lead on providing 'Ofsted readiness' training and support to schools as required.
- Work with the Director of Standards & Performance in ensuring that the approach to school monitoring and review genuinely supports school improvement and continues to be a highly regarded and positive part of our education model.

### **Requirements**

#### **Essential Experience**

- Experience of Headship/Senior leadership team in an improved or outstanding school.
- Deep knowledge of the current Ofsted Framework, as a serving OI or HMI, across phases.
- Experience of direct school improvement, with evidence of impact.
- Qualified to teach and work in the UK.

#### **Essential Knowledge and Skills**

- Deep knowledge of the wider school performance framework at a national level.
- Evidence of impact in the communicating of ideas and initiatives.
- Excellent understanding of data – able to forensically analyse and use data to inform.
- The ability to communicate clearly and effectively through written reports.
- A good understanding of how students learn and how to meet their needs.
- Knowledge of a wide range of school improvement strategies and approaches.
- Ability to use ICT effectively to perform their role.

## Desirable Knowledge & Skills

- Experience working at a senior level in a multi-academy trust.
- Experience across both primary and secondary school phases.

## Personal Qualities

- Effective communicator with strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build positive relationships.
- Able to uphold Ark values through their work, demonstrating compassion, kindness and bravery in our work to drive school improvement.
- Flexible, highly organised and able to multi-task and prioritise work to meet deadlines in a dynamic environment.
- Strong interpersonal skills and confidence when meeting internal and external stakeholders – ability to persuade, influence and hold others to account.
- Able to demonstrate their commitment to the mission of improving educational opportunities for underprivileged children.
- Strong entrepreneurial skills and a track record of being a self-starter.

## Benefits

- 27 days annual leave plus bank holidays, rising with each year of service.
- Flexible working – this post requires 2 – 3 days per week in schools/our central office each week during term time.
- We are committed to providing high-quality professional learning throughout your career with us and offer a variety of training sessions and experiences designed to meet your needs.
- Access to Ark Rewards scheme offering savings from over 3,000 major retailers, interest-free loans available for season tickets or a bicycle and gym discounts offering up to 40% off your local gym.
- Eligible for the Teachers' Pension Scheme, or 11% employer pension contribution.

## How to Apply

Apply via our dedicated careers portal. Applications to be submitted by **10am on Monday 24 April** but please note: we will be reviewing applications on an on-going basis and this advert may close earlier than advertised depending on the level of response. Interviews will be arranged as suitable candidates are identified, so early application is strongly advised.

**Interviews will be arranged as suitable candidates are identified, so early application is strongly advised.**

*Ark is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in its academies. In order to meet this responsibility, its academies follow a rigorous selection process to discourage and screen out unsuitable applicants.*

*Ark requires all employees to undertake an enhanced DBS check. You are required, before appointment, to disclose any unspent conviction, cautions, reprimands or warnings under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975. Non-disclosure may lead to termination of employment. However, disclosure of a criminal background will not necessarily debar you from employment - this will depend upon the nature of the offence(s) and when they occurred. To read more about Ark's safer recruitment process, please click this [link](#).*