



Ark

Ark Schools Review Lead

Reports to:	Director of Standards & Performance
Location:	White City, London <i>(with some remote working and regular travel to the schools in the network)</i>
Contract:	Permanent
Start:	1 September 2023 <i>(or earlier by negotiation)</i>
Pattern:	Full Time (standard hours 9am – 5.30pm) – <i>P/T available</i>
Salary:	£75,000 - £85,000 <i>(depending on experience)</i>

About Ark

Ark is a 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 lead our review cycle across schools. 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 in a senior leadership role, ideally through headship, and have deep knowledge of the Ofsted framework, likely as an Ofsted Inspector or Her Majesty's Inspector with experience across all school phases.

A new Standards and Performance function is being established within Ark Schools with a clear focus on ensuring that Principals, Regional Directors and Central Team leaders are enabled to raise educational standards across the network. The 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, 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 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

The Ark Schools Review Lead role is integral to our approach to ensure all of our schools provide an exceptional education to the pupils we serve. The post holder's 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.
- On visits to schools, provide support and challenge to leaders, highlighting strengths and describing areas for further development.
- Lead network wide training to leaders at all levels of school in key 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.
- Be able to provide feedback to schools' management team 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.
- Co-ordinate and manage the monitoring visit schedule for schools, based on priority, quality assuring the process and outputs.
- 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 supports school improvement.

Person specification

Qualifications

- Qualified Teacher Status.

Essential experience

- Experience of Headship/Senior school leadership in an improved or outstanding school.
- Deep knowledge of the Ofsted Framework, as an OI or HMI, across all school phases.
- Experience of direct school improvement, with evidence of impact.
- Right to work in the UK.

Essential knowledge and skills

- Deep knowledge of the wider school performance framework at a national level.
- Qualified teacher status.
- 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

- Extensive senior leadership experience in schools.
- 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.
- 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 6 March** 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.**

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](#).