

## Primary Music Specialist

**Reports to:** Director of Music

**Team:** Ark Music sits within the central education team at Ark Schools

**Location:** White city, London with regular travel to schools

**Salary details:** £42,000- £45,000 per annum depending on experience + career average pension scheme + other benefits

**Contract:** Fixed term (see below for details) 37.5 hours per week

**Closing date:**

**Start date:** As soon as possible

**Interviews:** Arranged as suitable candidates are identified, early application is strongly advised

High quality music education is unparalleled in its ability to stimulate personal, emotional, and intellectual development, and motivate social change. Given the right conditions, we believe that every child can be a musician, and enjoy improved life chances as a result.

Our mission is to ensure that every pupil in an Ark school is set-up to enjoy a life enriched by music and the many holistic benefits that brings. We want our young people to leave school with the ability to express themselves musically, as well as having developed resilience, empathy and a rich understanding of the world around them.

Ark Music spans EYFS through to KS4 and engages just over 13,000 children per week across 26 schools. At primary level, we focus on three key areas:

1. an integrated approach to curriculum development and teacher training which supports primary school teachers to deliver rigorous and inclusive music lessons
2. progressive instrumental and vocal learning for every child
3. weekly enrichment, regular sharing events and network ensembles

## Key Responsibilities

### Programme Leadership

- Lead the development of an inclusive, financially viable model for music education from EYFS – Year 6 which ensures that children leave primary school as fully rounded, skilled musicians
- Identify best practice locally, nationally and internationally to inform and refine the primary music programme
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the primary music programme, and report outcomes to the Director of Music/Ark's senior management team.

### Curriculum development, teacher training and teaching

- Teach and contribute as necessary in school and on training days
- Promote the Ark Music model of inclusive practice when teaching
- Lead a programme of professional development for teachers and music educators at varying stages of their careers
- Ensure that our vocal, instrumental and enrichment curricula are regularly reviewed and continue to evolve to best meet the needs of both children and teachers
- Design a holistic programme for assessment which involves pupils in their own development

- Systematically link work to the Secondary Music Programme, ensuring pupils benefit from a joined-up learning journey

### **Team Management**

- Line manage a team of primary practitioners and Artists in Residence. Provide guidance and set clear expectations of the work and the behaviours required within the culture of Ark Music.
- Undertake frequent observations of the primary team using a coaching model and other quality assurance approaches to develop your team in line with agreed quality standards
- Establish a supportive and containing rhythm of one-to-one and team meetings that ensures the team are well informed and have opportunities to work through challenges
- Find practical ways to join-up information sharing from your team with the relevant colleagues in school and Ark Music
- Take pride in high quality communication across teams and with schools, and ensure information is recorded and shared accurately.

### **Support wider organisational objectives**

- Champion Ark's community of practice and music in our primary schools
- Develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships across the primary music programme and the Ark network more broadly
- Work to ensure pupil achievement is showcased and celebrated regularly
- Support broader music programme training, rehearsals and network events
- Play an appropriate role in the running of the Ark network choirs/orchestra
- Work collaboratively with the Director of Music to ensure the PMP is financially secure by contributing to funding bids and other activities.

### **What else is required of you?**

- Some evening and weekend work to facilitate the programme and to meet important deadlines
- Willingness to travel within the UK, using public transport whenever practicable

## **Person Specification: Primary Music Specialist**

### **Experience, knowledge and skills**

- An expert in music education at primary level
- Extensive experience of working in state education (in a school, music education hub, charity or equivalent education setting), and knowledgeable about how to develop excellent music education practice
- Experienced in leading and managing a diverse team of people to successfully achieve important goals. This will have included managing performance, providing direction and having high expectations
- Skilled at drawing on a wide range of musical genres to create a rich and varied pupil experience
- Committed to continual improvement in your teaching practice and able to provide valuable insights to others about the quality of their teaching

- Responsible and constructive in translating strategic plans into actions for your team, and communicating messages and feedback from ‘front line’ (school) delivery to the wider organisation

### **Professional Characteristics**

- Enjoys managing and leading others, investing time in coaching and in developing others to be high performing
- Kind, calm under pressure and able to support others to be purposeful when they are under pressure
- Highly organised and efficient in completing a wide variety of work to tight deadlines
- Professionally confident and adept at working with a wide range of people
- Holds high standards and are comfortable making tough decisions about the suitability and performance of others for professional roles
- Excellent at listening and empathic in your approach

### **Values and alignment**

- Genuine passion and a belief in the potential of every young person
- Recognise and equally value all types of music and musician
- Committed to anti-discriminatory practice
- A willingness and ability to be fully aligned to, and be an advocate for, Ark Music’s purpose and theory of change across all areas of work including a:
  - focus on championing the value of music in state school education
  - collaborative approach to our work that celebrates, encourages and recognises individuality and youth voice
  - and a commitment that every child should have a high-quality music education regardless of their background or ability to pay.

### **Requirements of the role**

- Right to work in the UK
- Qualified Teacher Status (desirable)
- Senior leadership experience in a school, music education hub, charity or equivalent education setting

*Ark is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people; all successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.*