



Ark Tindal
Primary Academy



Chair of Governors

November 2019

Welcome to Ark Tindal

Ark Tindal is a nurturing, exciting and innovative place to learn. At the heart of everything that we do is the determination to develop our pupils through a variety of experiences, challenges and opportunities, whilst enhancing our values – Ambition, Resilience and Respect.

These values are demonstrated throughout the school, as noted in our last Ofsted inspection, where the school was found to be outstanding in the areas of 'Leadership and Management' and 'Nursery and Reception'.

At Ark Tindal we pride ourselves on making sure that every child feels safe and happy in the school environment. Children are valued by their classmates and teachers, and we have dedicated staff to ensure that all our pupils are settled, comfortable and ready to learn. It is important to us to celebrate the achievements of our pupils, be these academic, sporting, artistic or in social groups outside of school.



Parents and carers are at the heart of our school community and so we run regular courses for them – including learning English as a second language – as well as holding weekly informal coffee mornings on a range of subjects relating to school life. Our families make a valuable contribution each year in our charity fundraisers and are invited to attend a range of events throughout the school year.

The last academic year saw progress for reading, writing and maths in the top 3% of the country for the second year running, showing once more how hard our staff, pupils and their families work. However, we know there is much more to recognising our pupils' talents than looking at data. We also have a fantastic music programme, where our pupils play the ukulele, learn the drums, sing together and have the chance to learn how to play the violin from our classically-trained violin teacher.



Most of our pupils speak English as an additional language and mobility is also particularly high. We believe that every child who comes into our school and nursery deserves the best possible education and opportunities to learn and grow.

We are part of the Ark Schools network of 37 high-performing schools, which includes four other schools in Birmingham as well as in London, Hastings and Portsmouth. We joined the Ark network in 2012, and we have consistently worked to improve the school – we were recently ranked as the 16th best school in Birmingham (Real Schools Guide in January 2019).

Our pupils

We are a primary school of 429 pupils where every child knows and is known well by every teacher within their year groups and across the school. Positive relationships between pupils reinforce a culture of excellent teaching.

- 30% are entitled to free school meals; 42% receive pupil premium payments
- 13% have SEN
- 77% speak English as an additional language
- 48% are female, 52% male
- 33% of the school population was mobile last year, which is a five-percentage point increase from the previous year.
- Pupils rarely leave to go to other local schools and many pupils travel a considerable distance to be a part of Ark Tindal.



Our staff

There are around 40 teaching and non-teaching staff at Ark Tindal, all working hard to ensure our pupils from nursery through to year 6 can learn, play and develop in a secure and nurturing environment. We have specialists working in outreach, pastoral support, EAL and behaviour support.

Our values

We believe in the potential of every child at Ark Tindal and strive to create a school which provides each pupil with the best possible start in life and the motivation to achieve academic excellence.

- **Ambition:** We have dreams and aspirations for the future and are determined to achieve them.
- **Resilience:** We never give up, even when we find it difficult. We push ourselves to be the very best.
- **Respect:** We treat others as we want to be treated. We always choose honesty.

Our facilities



We are housed in well maintained traditional school buildings and located close to the busy High Street in Balsall Heath, about two miles from Birmingham city centre.

We aim to provide a bright and welcoming learning environment to all our pupils. Our site has been developed with a variety of outdoor play areas, and have ambitious plans to improve even further into a centre of excellence where Early Years learning can really take off.

Our local governing body

Ark school governors are drawn from a range of backgrounds and bring their unique skills, life experience and work experience to the local governing body (LGB).

Governors take on a link role and develop expertise in areas such as safeguarding, teaching & learning, finance and SEND. The LGB meets four times a year, with meeting papers circulated before each meeting, to review school data and finances and provide challenge and support to the Headteacher and the wider leadership team.

The role

This is an exciting time to join us as Chair of Governors. You will become a part of a close-knit community of enthusiastic governors, teachers, senior leaders, pupils and parents, with guidance and support from the central team of experts at Ark Schools.

The Chair must provide the local governing body with a clear lead and direction, ensuring that the governors work as an effective team and understand their own roles. The ideal candidate will have some experience in school governance (although this is not essential) and will have demonstrated leadership skills in a board or committee setting.



The Chair will:

- work closely with the Headteacher to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement by offering support, challenge and encouragement;
- ensure that the governing body sets a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school;
- utilise your personal and professional skills, experience and knowledge to lead the governing body ensuring considered and sound decisions are made;
- delegate tasks across the governing body so that all members contribute, and feel that their individual skills, knowledge and experience are well-used and that the overall workload is shared;
- hold the Headteacher and staff to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- ensure oversight of the financial performance of the school and effective use of the school's resources;
- support the vision and ethos of Ark Schools and work collaboratively.

As well as an interest in and commitment to the education sector we are seeking the following personal attributes:

- An engaging style, providing ideas and solutions
- A willingness to commit the required time and effort
- Team focused with strong leadership skills
- High levels of integrity

- An ability to challenge appropriately.

As Chair you should expect to commit up to 1.5 days per month term-time to the role but this is not necessarily time in school.

I would encourage you to arrange a visit to the school so that you can see for yourself how our response to our pupils' challenging circumstances makes Ark Tindal Primary Academy such an inspiring school, and one which I hope you will consider joining as Chair.

Rebecca Eaton
Headteacher

How to apply

We want our local governing body to include members with a broad range of experience, backgrounds and skills that not only reflect the community we serve but contribute to our long-term goals and add real value to our strategic decision-making. We welcome applications from the widest possible diversity of backgrounds and all appointments are made on merit following a fair and transparent process.

If you would like a confidential, informal discussion about the role or to arrange a visit to the school please contact Lucy Taylor (lucy.taylor@arkonline.org).

If you would like to be considered for the position please send an up-to-date CV with a covering letter explaining why you believe you would be suitable for the role to Liz Dawson (elizabeth.dawson@arkonline.org). **The closing date for application is 13th January 2020 and interviews will be held w/c 27th January.**

All Ark Chairs and governors are required to adhere to the Ark governors' Code of Conduct and undergo an enhanced disclosure DBS check and make an annual Declaration of Interest. This may require you to withdraw from specific discussions where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain or where you are so close to a matter being discussed that it will be difficult for you to be impartial.