



Ark Boulton
Academy



Chair of Governors

November 2019

Welcome to Ark Boulton Academy

A secondary academy in Sparkbrook, Birmingham

Our vision for Ark Boulton Academy is simple: we give each of our students the skills, personal qualities and qualifications they need to be successful at university and in the career of their choice.

We make them role models for future generations, helping them to fulfil their potential and raise aspirations. And we ensure that our young people can compete on level terms for places at university and in the job market.

We're proud to offer a supportive environment for our staff team, with a strong focus on professional development.



Our pupils

We have over 900 pupils at Ark Boulton, of whom:

- 43% qualify for free school meals
- 58% received pupil premium payments
- 12% have SEN
- 71% speak English as an additional language
- 47% are female, 53% are male.

But statistics are only part of the story. When you visit our school, watch a class being taught and see and hear the playgrounds in full motion, you get a true picture of our pupils and our vibrant school community.

Our staff

At Ark Boulton we are fortunate to have a team of dedicated, well-qualified and hard-working people. Staff wellbeing is at the heart of what we do, and we know that for staff to become the best versions of themselves we must invest in their training.

With over 100 teaching and non-teaching staff, Ark Boulton is an inclusive school. We have specialists in pastoral support, behaviour and attendance, a school nurse and mobility support workers to meet our pupils' needs.



Our vision and values

Growing together, reaching higher

As a learning community we aim to grow together in understanding and cooperation, respecting each other's needs, beliefs and background, working ever more closely to fulfil individual potential for the greater good. Together with families and the local community, we are dedicated to helping our young people to develop a lifelong love of learning, a sense of personal and civic pride and the confidence to not just navigate the modern world, but to shape it.

We are part of the Ark Schools network of 37 high-performing schools, which includes four other schools in Birmingham as well as schools in Hastings, London and Portsmouth. As an Ark school we subscribe to, and are passionate about, **the six pillars** that we believe are fundamental to students receiving an excellent education.



Our location and facilities



Based in traditional Victorian school buildings, Ark Boulton is located in Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath East ward in inner city Birmingham. This is Birmingham's second most populous ward with low employment rates and a high percentage of black and minority ethnic (BAME) residents. The school has strong community roots and offers a warm and welcoming environment. Most of our pupils live close to the school and many have siblings and family members here.

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. Ark provides general and specialist training to support governors and chairs.

The LGB meets five times a year, with meeting papers circulated beforehand, to review school data and finances and provide challenge and support to the Principal and wider leadership team.

The role

This is an exciting time to join us as Chair of Governors. You will join 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 Principal 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 Principal 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 two days per month to the role in term time but this is not necessarily time spent in school. I would encourage you to arrange a visit to the school so that you can see for yourself how we work to make Ark Boulton an inspiring school, and one which I hope you will consider joining as Chair.

Herminder Channa
Principal

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 applications is 13th January 2020 and interviews will take place w/c 27th January.**

All Ark Chairs and governors are required to adhere to the Ark governors' Code of Conduct, 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.