**Job Description: Primary Music Specialist**

*An exciting opportunity to shape the development of Ark’s music support to primary schools.*

**About the role**

Ark is an education charity and one of the country’s top performing academy operators. Our academies are situated in areas of high disadvantage, with over 30% of Ark pupils eligible for free school meals, compared with 16% nationally. We currently work with 36 primary and secondary schools across London, Hastings, Portsmouth and Birmingham. Our vision is to create a group of outstanding schools that radically improve our pupils’ life chances.

We know that education isn’t simply about passing exams; it’s about enabling students to learn the skills and qualities they need to be successful at school and beyond. To support this, our schools ensure that alongside setting high expectations for academic progress, we also focus on creating well rounded individuals who understand their own passions and interests and can thrive in any environment.

The central music team exists within Ark to support music-making across the network. We believe that a high quality, progressive and diverse education in music is the entitlement of every child, regardless of their background. Our mission is to ensure that every pupil in an Ark school is set-up to enjoy a lifelong relationship with music and the many holistic benefits that brings. We want our young people to leave school knowing that they are creative musicians who belong to a vibrant artistic community.

**Main purpose of the job**

Ark’s thriving primary programme currently supports over 10,000 children across the country every week. We believe that when developed strategically, an embedded music curriculum provides the environment for every child to develop a broad range of skills in a creative, enjoyable way. Our activity focuses on core three key areas:

* + an integrated approach to curriculum development and teacher training,
  + instrumental and vocal learning for every child
  + enrichment and events

Thanks to a recent grant, we have now secured funding to continue our work in the primary phase for the next number of years. This is an exciting opportunity for an exceptional and innovative primary specialist to lead an inclusive programme for music education. You will be joining a team of teachers and music educators committed to supporting our network in achieving excellent outcomes for their pupils both within and beyond the classroom.

**The ideal candidate will:**

* have a genuine passion for and belief in the potential of every young person
* have an outstanding record of leading the improvement of music provision in a variety of settings
* be an outstanding teacher and facilitator
* have enthusiasm and passion for music and the development of the music curriculum
* have demonstrable experience of significantly raising attainment through training and coaching of others

Our programme seeks to represent and equally value different kinds of music and musician. We are keen to ensure the rich diversity of our Art form is represented in our team and in turn, that our team is reflective of the communities we serve. We actively encourage candidates from a variety of backgrounds, particularly Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) applicants. If you have a disability and would like to discuss reasonable adjustments for this role, please indicate this on your application and we will be in touch with you.

**Start date:** as soon as possible, latest September 2018

**Closing date for applications:** 12 noon on Monday 21 May 2018

**Contract**: 2-year fixed term

**Salary:** £42,000 - £46,000

**Location**: Holborn, London, with frequent travel to our schools

**Reports to**: Director of Music

**Responsible for:** Primary Music Programme Associates

For a full job description and to apply for the role, visit <https://goo.gl/LvUVJw>. Please submit your application by **12 noon** on **Monday 21 May 2018. Interviews will be held on Thursday 24 May 2018.**

If you would like to discuss the role, or have any queries, please contact the recruitment team at [recruitment@arkonline.org](mailto:recruitment@arkonline.org).

*Ark is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in our academies. In order to meet this responsibility, we follow a rigorous selection process. All successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.*

**Key responsibilities**

**Primary music programme (PMP)**

* Lead the development of an inclusive model for learning from EYFS – Year 6 which ensures that children leave primary school as fully rounded musicians
* Lead a programme of professional development for our teachers (both in school and through CPD events), resulting in high quality learning experiences for pupils
* Assume line management of primary music associates (teacher educators) ensuring that their work is impactful and aligned to programme values
* Ensure that vocal, instrumental and enrichment curricula are regularly reviewed and continue to evolve to best meet the needs of both children and teachers
* Identify best practice locally, nationally and internationally in order to inform/refine PMP activity
* Reference/link work to the Secondary Music Programme as appropriate, ensuring pupils benefit from a joined up learning journey
* Work collaboratively with the Director of Music to develop a strategy and business plan that supports the expansion of the PMP within the Ark network (and beyond)
* Monitor and evaluate the impact of the PMP, and report outcomes to the Director of Music/Ark’s senior management team.

**Beyond the PMP**

* Champion Ark’s community of practice including leading on Music Leads meetings and cluster-based moderation where appropriate
* Develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships both across the primary music programme and the primary network more broadly
* Work to ensure student achievement is showcased and celebrated through media and public performance
* Support broader music programme training, rehearsals and network events
* Play an appropriate role in the running of the Ark network choir/orchestra

**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
* Willingness to undertake training and open to receiving feedback
* A hunger to do things better and a continuous desire to know more about curriculum, pedagogy, practice and music
* To identify as a musician – you must love music-making for yourself as much as for our pupils
* Commitment to equality of opportunity and the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils
* An ability to communicate our work and our mission to teachers, senior stakeholders and the community

**Person Specification: Secondary Music Specialist**

* Right to work in the UK
* Qualified Teacher Status (desirable)
* Senior leadership experience in a school or equivalent education setting

**Values**

* Genuine passion and a belief in the potential of every young person
* Desire to recognise and equally value all types of music and musician
* Personal vision is aligned with Ark’s high aspirations and expectations of self and others
* Motivation to continually improve standards and achieve excellence above norms.

**Experience**

* Outstanding teacher/educator with experience working in a senior role for a music education organisation or as an AST/Lead Practitioner
* Experience of developing research-led singing and instrumental curriculum frameworks that offer pupils joined up learning pathways
* Evidence of raising attainment and participation of all pupils within a challenging environment
* Ability to reflect on own practice and the practice of others in pursuit of improved pupil outcomes
* Experience of drawing on a broad range of musical genres to create a rich a varied pupil experience
* Evidence of raising attainment through data analysis and evaluation
* Experience of leading/driving the professional development of teachers at different career stages, including working with leadership teams to address performance issues, coaching and mentoring individual staff and delivering wider staff training
* Experience of leading inclusive youth ensembles (desired but not essential).

**Skills and abilities**

* An expert in music education at primary level, with particular experience of using lesson observation and feedback to teachers to improve student outcomes
* Up to date knowledge of the current music curriculum and assessment requirements
* An effective coach and developer of adults
* Excellent communication and presentation skills
* Ability to consider both the detail and the ‘bigger picture’
* Highly effective management style that is both consultative and influential
* Effective time management and organisational skills
* Performance orientated – sets and achieves high standards for self and others
* Flexible and adaptable – responding positively to changing demands
* Effective team worker and leader