



Ark Greenwich Free School

Teacher of Geography

Reporting to:	Head of Geography
Location:	Ark Greenwich Free School
Contract:	Permanent
Working Pattern:	Full Time
Start date:	September 2021
Salary:	Competitive

Applications close:	9am 24/5/21
Shortlist confirmed:	5pm 24/5/21
Interviews:	Candidates must be available on 26/5/21

This is a rare and exciting opportunity to work at one of the highest performing schools in the country (Evening Standard). If you are passionate about the importance of geography and want to work in a seriously ambitious, respectful and high performing school, this is the job for you. Click [here](#) to view our school video.

Ark Greenwich Free School (AGFS)

AGFS is a new, ambitious school model based on what we know excellent schools do. We have created a highly respectful and disciplined environment where our staff and scholars can fulfil their potential. Our aim is to consistently be amongst the highest performing schools in the country. Our 2020 Ofsted report said that, 'this school could now be judged as Outstanding'.

Joining the school team is a superb opportunity for an ambitious and motivated teacher who wants to make a lasting difference to the communities they serve. AGFS exists to empower young people, regardless of socio-economic background, to grow and be successful. This is a driven and forward-thinking school that encourages innovation and values its staff. We are proud of our courteous and purposeful community and of the outstanding academic outcomes achieved by our scholars. Expectations for all members of our community are unashamedly sky high. We work tirelessly to impact the lives of the young people we serve.

How is AGFS different?

- We are part of the Ark family of schools and benefit accordingly from outstanding networking opportunities and first-class CPD.
- Staff wellbeing is one of our main priorities. We provide breakfast for staff each morning and have a 6pm/weekend work-related communication curfew to ensure our staff can maintain a work/life balance. We do not do knee jerk reactions, fads or last-minute deadlines. Our systems and processes for communication, marking

and feedback and assessment are streamlined and the approaches we take are research led and based on the needs of our local context.

- This is a small school model (600 scholars aged 11-16) because we believe that our close-knit community provides the optimum conditions for success.
- Behaviour for learning is exceptional so our teachers can focus their time on the things that matter – planning and delivering brilliant lessons for our scholars. We have applied to become a national behaviour hub school.
- **This is a strict no excuses, no mobile phone school. That means scholars are not permitted to bring phones onto the premises.**
- Our curriculum is traditional and academic, and we do not take shortcuts to boost our position in school league tables – we do not, for example, offer vocational courses or equivalencies such as BTECs or Vcerts.
- We put high-quality teaching at the heart of what we do. We are committed to providing staff with at least 1 hour of high-quality training each week. We run coaching for staff who want to see rapid progress in their discipline. Live coaching and current best practice in the field of education is central to our approach.
- We don't grade individual lessons or ask for lesson plans.
- Our scholars enjoy a compulsory co-curricular program on a Wednesday afternoon which includes a strong focus on community volunteering, and we facilitate 12 drop-down days per academic year ensuring scholars benefit from a range of life-enriching experiences.

If you are ready to add further value to our geography department and to become part of an organisation at the forefront of best practice in the field, then this could be the job for you. **Alignment with the school's vision, values and approach to education is essential.**

The Role and the Department

Geography is highly valued and taught throughout the curriculum each week from Year 7-9. At the end of Year 9, pupils select their GCSE option subjects and Geography is a popular choice. Our first class Geography classrooms, which afford beautiful views across London, offer the ideal environment for our GCSE Geography students to thrive and fulfil their potential. Currently approximately 60% of students select GCSE Geography as an option subject at GCSE level.

The department specific Progress 8 score has for the last two years has contributed to the Humanities faculty becoming consistently the highest performing faculty in the school, with typically 30-40% of students going on to achieve the top grade 7-9 category. Field trips and excursions form a central part of the geography curriculum.

About Ark Schools

Ark is a network of high-achieving, non-selective schools and one of the country's top-performing academy groups. We run 38 academies in London, Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth educating more than 26,000 scholars. 83% of Ark schools are now rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted.

Our aim is to create outstanding schools that give every scholar, regardless of their background, the opportunity to go to university or pursue the career of their choice.

To find out more about Ark Greenwich, please visit our website via www.arkgreenwichfreeschool.org

Ark is committed to safeguarding children; successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Teacher of Geography: Job description

Job Title: Teacher of Geography

Reports to: Head of Geography

Start date: September 2021

Salary: Competitive

Disclosure level: Enhanced

The Role

You will be instrumental in our mission to provide every student a great education and real choices in life, regardless of their background. A passionate practitioner, you will deliver high-quality, rigorous lessons that drive achievement and inspire a love of learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Key Responsibilities

- Set high expectations so that all students are inspired, motivated and challenged to reach their full potential, and in doing so meet their progress and attainment targets
- Plan and teach well-structured, differentiated lessons that are aligned to the agreed curriculum and lesson process, cultivating every student's intellectual curiosity
- Provide frequent and incisive student feedback in line with school policy
- Use data to inform teaching and learning, identify areas for intervention and provide feedback to students, staff and families to promote progress and outcomes
- Manage behaviour effectively to create a safe, respectful and nurturing environment so that students can focus on learning
- Work collaboratively with both school and network colleagues as a committed team member, building successful, high performing teams
- Participate actively throughout the school and network, by attending relevant meetings and CPD
- Attend school events, including but not exclusive to parents evening and Prize Evening
- Work with colleagues, students and families to develop a strong school community
- Follow all school rules and procedures

Other

- Actively promote the safety and welfare of our children and young people
- Ensure compliance with Arks data protection rules and procedures
- Liaise with colleagues and external contacts at all levels of seniority with confidence, tact and diplomacy
- Work with Ark Central and other academies in the Ark network, to establish good practice throughout the network, offering support where required

Professional Development

As a teacher:

- Take responsibility for your own professional development and demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional development by undertaking, and seeking out, opportunities to build your capabilities as a teacher.
- Maintain an up-to-date expert knowledge of your subject area, related teaching pedagogy and relevant aspects of the National Curriculum, exam board requirements and other statutory provisions, including developments and reforms in broader education policy.
- Ensure you understand your professional responsibilities in relation to school policies and practices.
- Evaluate your own teaching critically and use this to improve your effectiveness.
- Engage, positively, with the AGFS performance-management system.
- Support colleagues when working in your teacher learning communities.

Non-Subject Responsibilities

- Demonstrate consistently high expectations of all pupils and a commitment to raising their achievement and social and emotional well-being. Promote the positive values, attitudes and behaviour expected from all pupils by treating them with respect and consideration.
- Develop strong and positive relationships with pupils.
- Implement all school policies, including the school's behaviour policy.
- Contribute to the design and delivery of the school's enrichment curriculum in line with your timetable and the AGFS enrichment policy.
- Always model the ethos and vision of the school.
- Communicate promptly and sensitively with parents, carers and other relevant bodies where necessary.
- Contribute to the school's liaison, marketing and pupil recruitment activities, e.g. the collection of material for press releases.
- Lead the development of effective subject links with partner schools and the community, including attendance where necessary at liaison events in partner schools and the effective promotion of subject at Open Days/Evenings and other events.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues including support staff.
- Be familiar with and comply with the School's Health and Safety policies
- Be responsible for the health & safety of pupils when they are authorised to be on school premises and when engaged in authorised activities elsewhere
- Adhere, always, to the expectations of teachers at Ark Greenwich Free School, outlined on the final page of this document.
- Any other duties as required by the Headteacher commensurate with the post.

Form Tutor Responsibilities

- Maintain a holistic overview of the academic and pastoral progress of your tutees, including monitoring their wellbeing, academic attainment and progress
- Develop strong, trusted, relationships with each tutee to act as his or her mentor.
- Implement the school reading approach every morning in your reading group.

- Deliver and promote aspects of the school Wellbeing and Character programmes in Tutor time.
- Implement AGFS's attendance, rewards, sanctions, behaviour and monitoring policies, including being the primary behavioural point of contact for tutees and maintaining a weekly check of tutees' planners.
- Identify the need for, and support the design of, interventions to support pupils who are not meeting expectations.
- Monitor the safeguarding and welfare of tutees.
- Engage tutees' teaching staff to facilitate the sharing of relevant pupil specific strategies, information and best practice.
- Make specialist staff (SEND/CO, SDO) and senior staff (Heads of Year and SLT) aware of any issues with tutees as required.
- Proactively engage parents of tutees and endeavour to build positive home-school relationships. Act as the primary point of contact for parents of your tutees, promoting the home-school commitment.
- Model the ethos and vision of the school.
- Keep the form register and monitor patterns of pupil attendance/absence. Keep in regular contact with parents to ensure any absences are always explained.
- Contribute fully towards the school enrichment programme.
- Run extra-curricular activities including intervention programmes where necessary.
- Undertake any other various responsibilities as directed by the Headteacher, Senior Manager or Line Manager.
- Undertake the other main professional duties of a teacher as set out in the AGFS pay and conditions of service document.

Notes

All new staff will be subject to a probation period of six months (which may, in certain circumstances, be extended by up to 10 weeks). The probation period is a trial period, to enable the assessment of an employee's suitability for the job for which he or she has been employed. It provides the school with the opportunity to monitor and review the performance of new staff in relation to various areas, and also in terms of their commitment to safeguarding and relationships with scholars.

No job description can be fully comprehensive, and from time to time the successful candidate may have to undertake other professional duties as directed by the Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team.

Person Specification: Secondary Teacher of Geography

Qualification criteria

- Qualified Teacher Status
- Degree in geography or humanities subject
- Permitted to work in the UK
- Evidence of relevant and substantial CPD

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Demonstrable commitment to raising attainment of all pupils in a challenging classroom environment
- Excellent understanding of both subject and general teaching pedagogy
- Experience of teaching Geography at KS3 and KS4 (preferably AQA specification at KS4)
- Be or demonstrate the potential to become an outstanding teacher
- Effective and systematic behaviour management
- Knowledge of the national secondary education system, examinations and curriculum
- Genuine passion for and a belief in the potential of every student
- A robust awareness of keeping children safe, noticing safeguarding and welfare concerns, and you understand how and when to take appropriate action
- Deep commitment to Ark's mission of providing an excellent education to every student, regardless of background
- Excellent interpersonal, planning and organisational skills
- Resilient, motivated and committed to achieving excellence
- Reflective and proactive in seeking feedback to constantly improve practice
- Commitment to regular and on-going professional development and training to establish outstanding classroom practice.
- Commitment to and understanding of professionalism in line with the National Teaching Standards

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. This process is outlined [here](#), but can be provided in more detail if requested. All successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.