



Executive Principal (Secondary) - West London

An exceptional opportunity for a talented strategic education leader to have a wider impact across a cluster of schools within the Ark Network.

We are looking for an experienced school leader to develop our West London cluster of secondary schools. The scope of this role offers a wide and varied leadership challenge. You will lead the development of a brand new school, Ark Soane Academy, which will open in September 2019 in Acton, as well as supporting our more established secondary schools in West London.

Our highly-successful network of 35 schools educates over 23,000 students across Hastings, Birmingham, London and Portsmouth. They are achieving some of the best results in the country despite being largely in areas of historic academic underachievement. This is an exciting time to join our network, as we grow, we are moving to a regional structure to enable local clusters of schools to work together much more closely.

Reporting to Ark's Director of Secondary Education, you will have overall responsibility for delivering outstanding secondary education across the cluster of schools, making sure that learning stretches, inspires and challenges every pupil to fulfil their true potential.

Ideal Candidates will:

- Share our belief that, with the right teaching and support, every child can achieve
- Have high expectations of themselves and others, and be motivated by the pursuit of excellence
- Have an impressive track record of school improvement, alongside a flair for building capacity through coaching, challenge and support
- Have led a challenging school to great success or been the leader of an outstanding school
- Be fully aligned to the Ark network and committed to developing effective collaboration and strong partnerships between schools

In return, you'll receive a highly competitive salary, unrivalled professional development and the continuous support of one of the highest performing academy operators in the country.

To apply please go to <https://goo.gl/sLiZs2>. Please submit your application by 9am on Monday 22nd January 2018. For further information, a confidential discussion or for any technical queries please contact Natalie Partridge by 0203 116 7193 or natalie.partridge@arkonline.org



Salary: Highly competitive package, negotiable according to experience. Relocation assistance is available
Start Date: September 2018
Contract: Permanent, full-time
Location: West London
Closing date: 9AM on Monday 22nd January 2018
Assessment centre: Tuesday 30th January 2018
Final interviews: Friday 2nd February 2018

Ark is an international charity that is transforming lives through education. We exist to make sure that every child, regardless of background, has access to a great education and real choices in life.

We value diversity and are committed to safeguarding and promoting child welfare. The successful candidate will be subject to DBS and any other relevant employment checks.

Job Description: Executive Principal

Reports to: Director of Secondary Education

Start date: September 2018

Location: West London

The Role

The Executive Principal will have overall responsibility for developing and implementing the strategic vision for our West London secondary academies. Our West London schools are very diverse and the Executive Principal will need to be able to adapt to the different leadership challenges of creating a brand new school, supporting new transition schools and working with schools which are much more established.

The Executive Principal will work with the Principals and their senior leadership teams to ensure that all of the schools provide an exceptionally high standard of education for all of their pupils, and realise the opportunities of working together in a close collaborative cluster.

Key responsibilities

- Set out an expansive and compelling strategic vision for our West London secondary schools and communicate this effectively to all stakeholders
- Provide effective executive leadership which supports all schools to achieve exceptional outcomes through high standards of teaching and learning, behaviour and attainment
- Lead the development of our brand new school, Ark Soane Academy

Personal Leadership and Coaching

- Provide direct line management, coaching and mentoring for the Principals
- Hold overall strategic responsibility for the development of staff across the cluster
- Ensure that all staff are well managed and effectively supported with clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Develop strong practices to support talent management and succession planning in order to attract, develop and retain the very best people

Coordination of overall Strategy

- Develop a vibrant cluster of schools, ensuring that effective strategic planning and robust operational systems are in place which maximise resource management across the schools and support their efficient function
- Working closely with your team of Principals, establish a shared culture across the cluster that enables everyone to work collaboratively, share best practice, celebrate success and accept responsibility for outcomes
- Be a positive local presence and an effective ambassador for Ark in West London by developing strong partnerships with the community, local agencies and other schools

Development of the Ark Network

- Play a significant role in the development of the Ark network by helping to shape or lead educational initiatives. Be committed to sharing codification and innovation work with others across the network to spread great practice

Other

- Undertake any other professional duties as directed by the Director of Secondary Education

Person Specification: Executive Principal

Qualification criteria

- Qualified to degree level
- Qualified to teach and work in the UK

Experience and knowledge

- A significant track record of success as a Principal, or as a member of a regional/national school improvement team (or equivalent)
- Substantial evidence of leading school improvement which delivered better educational outcomes for all students
- Experience of line managing senior colleagues, coaching them to even greater effectiveness
- Comprehensive knowledge of current thinking on educational achievement and improvement, including policy issues
- Experience of leading and managing innovation and achieving change
- A clear vision and understanding of the strategies to support talent management and effective continuing professional development for teachers and leaders
- Strong track record of working collaboratively with other schools, and successfully building positive and productive working relationships
- Capacity to analyse value derived from professional support services such as finance, IT and HR, and how to maximise opportunities created by working at greater scale across multiple schools

Skills and abilities

- Motivation to continually improve standards and achieve excellence
- Highly tuned ability to lead and motivate a team of senior colleagues
- Enthusiasm for, and skill in, planning and leading systemic change at scale and in a collegiate way
- Teaching and learning expertise with ability to drive for educational excellence
- Highly approachable, very grounded and capable of making sensible judgements
- Strong interpersonal, written and oral communication skills
- Excellent organisational skills and the ability to delegate
- Strong analytical skills, particularly in interpreting complex educational data

- Analytical skills that contribute effectively to identification of developments and trends, prioritisation and problem solving
- Flexible and adaptable style, responding positively to changing demands
- Professional demeanour which commands confidence

Other

- Commitment to equality of opportunity and the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils
- Willingness to travel, and when necessary work outside normal working day for public and other meetings and to achieve deadlines
- This post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check

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.