



**Ark Victoria
Academy**

Director of Performing Arts

Reporting to:	Assistant Headteacher
Start Date:	September 2026
Location:	Ark Victoria Academy, Talbot Way, Small Heath, Birmingham, B10 0HJ
Contract:	Permanent
Working Pattern:	Full time
Salary:	Ark Main Pay Scale/Upper Pay Range (£33,739 - £53,094 p/a)
TLR:	TLR 2B (£5,870 p/a)
Closing Date:	14/05/26 (interviews week commencing 18/05/26)

About the role:

We're looking for a creative Director of Performing Arts to lead our music and drama department.

In this exciting new role, you will develop and manage the effective delivery of an outstanding curriculum, which enables the highest level of student progress and attainment. You will lead the professional community of music and drama teachers and promote outstanding teaching and learning and a strong school culture within a nurturing and rigorous environment.

About Ark Victoria Academy

Ark Victoria Academy provides pupils with an excellent education through an ambitious curriculum, personal development and character programme, and an extensive student experience and extra-curricular offer. Although we are a large school, we are able to retain a family feel, to nurture our pupils through their schooling and ensure that they flourish and leave us with the skills and qualifications necessary to continue their journey of life-long learning in a university or career of their choice.

Our school values and virtue pathways are crucial to our culture and ethos, they are also part of the way we work and learn together and have been instrumental to us on our school

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Resilient

Kind



improvement journey. Our values of Ambition, Resilience and Kindness permeate our curriculum, our culture, school and our learning community.

It is for these reasons that Ark Victoria Academy was judged to be significantly improved in all areas from the 2019 ‘Good’ inspection, by Ofsted, in October 2024: *‘This is a school which lives out its values in full for the benefit of children in Nursery to the pupils in Year 11...pupils thrive at all stages of Ark Victoria Academy...as the school knows its pupils very well, they are very well supported to engage with the school’s ambitious curriculum’*. The full report (September 2024) can be found here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50262921>.

We prioritise staff development with a strong emphasis on securing expert subject knowledge from our teachers, strong teaching and leadership and a focus on excellence for our pupils and staff. **Our [website](#) can provide more information about Ark Victoria Academy.**

Why work for our school?

We value our staff and provide a comprehensive programme of coaching and professional development for all our staff. We use our values and our virtue pathways to shape the way we work and learn together. Hear what our teachers have to say about working at Ark Victoria Academy: <https://arkvictoria.org/jobs/working-for-us>

- Wellbeing is a key focus here and our school will be taking advantage of a **2-week break for October half term**
- Our school’s ‘Wellbeing Wednesdays’ are a great hit with breakfast for staff every week
- There is an early finish for secondary students on Fridays
- We take CPD seriously and offer 10 training days as standard
- Access to Ark Rewards scheme offering up to £1,000 a year in savings from over 3,000 major retailers
- Interest-free loans of up to £5,000 available for season tickets or a bicycles
- Our staff can take advantage of our on-site fitness suite and Ark provide gym discounts of up to 40%

For an informal conversation about the role please contact HR via 0121 393 4459 or via vichr@arkvictoria.org.

Please note the school reserves the right to close this advert early and interviews may take place before the advertised closing date. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early for this role to avoid disappointment.

How to Apply:

Please submit your application online by visiting <https://arkvictoria.org/jobs/vacancies>.

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Job Description

Key Responsibilities

Leadership and management (with the support and direction of the SLT)

- Enable all Music and Drama teachers to achieve expertise in teaching and planning through coaching and support, as well as through the provision of CPD and inset training days
- Enable staff to develop expertise in teaching Music and Drama and in raising the profile of the subject in the school's community, through CPD, coaching and guidance
- Create, review and monitor a strategic plan for improving outcomes and the quality of the provision for Music and Drama
- Assist the SLT, in monitoring, evaluating and continually improving the quality of planning, teaching and learning, and assessment of all members of the Music and Drama team
- Lead the monitoring and evaluating of signature strategies across the secondary phase
- Develop strong partnerships and ensure regular communication with parents and carers

Improving Teaching & Learning

- Design a plan to support roll out of the signature strategies for Music and Drama
- Design, oversee, monitor and evaluate an engaging and challenging Music and Drama curriculum that inspires children and develops their skills and knowledge, while identifying clear targets, timescales and success criteria for its development
- Model outstanding teaching and lead collaborative planning and development, including the sharing of resources and best practice within the department
- Ensure continuity and progression in the teaching of Music and Drama by supporting colleagues in choosing the appropriate sequence of teaching and teaching methods and setting clear learning objectives through an agreed scheme of work
- Monitor the provision for Music and Drama through rigorous and regular lesson observations, work scrutinies, and provide detailed, constructive feedback
- Use data to inform teaching and learning, identify areas for intervention and provide feedback to students, staff and families in order 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 network, by attending relevant meetings, and, as appropriate, delivering network-wide training and initiatives
- Work with colleagues, students and families to develop a strong school community

Other

- Actively promote the safety and welfare of our children and young people
- Ensure compliance with Ark's 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

This job description is not an exhaustive list and you will be expected to carry out any other reasonable tasks as directed by your line manager.

Person Specification

Qualification Criteria

- Qualified to teach and work in the UK
- Degree in Music, Drama or related subject

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Experience of raising attainment in a challenging classroom environment
- Experience of developing others
- Experience of having designed, implemented and evaluated effective, imaginative and stimulating Schemes of Work
- Experience of interpreting complex student data to drive lesson planning and student progress
- Excellent understanding of both subject and general teaching pedagogy
- Excellent understanding of signature strategies relating to Music and/or Drama
- Effective and systematic behaviour management
- Knowledge of the national secondary education system, examinations and curriculum

Personal Characteristics

- Genuine passion for and a belief in the potential of every student
- Deep commitment to Ark's mission of providing an excellent education to every student, regardless of background
- Excellent interpersonal, planning and organisational skills
- 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

Other

- Commitment to equality of opportunity and the safeguarding and welfare of all students
- Willingness to undertake training
- This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check

Ark requires all employees to undertake an enhanced DBS check. You are required, before appointment, to disclose any unspent conviction, cautions, reprimands or warnings under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975. Non-disclosure may lead to termination of employment. However, disclosure of a criminal background will not necessarily debar you from employment - this will depend upon the nature of the offence(s) and when they occurred. To read more about Ark's safer recruitment process, please click this [link](#).

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Executive Principal

I am delighted and proud to welcome you to Ark Victoria Academy, a family school in the heart of Small Heath. I joined our academy in 2019 and am working hard with our pupils and staff to make sure our school continues to improve. We want to provide an excellent education for each and every one of our pupils.



As Principal, it is my responsibility to create an environment in which your child can become a confident, articulate, resilient and kind young adult. Our curriculum, enrichment programme and student experience days, help ensure our pupils learn, thrive and make progress. We are committed to preparing and supporting our pupils to go on to pursue careers they are passionate about, contributing positively to society and living happy, healthy and fulfilled lives.

Our school community works hard to ensure our values of being **ambitious, resilient** and **kind** underpin our work and are upheld by us all.

We know that all children can and will achieve success and our dedicated staff work hard to nurture, support and provide challenge, to make this a reality. We welcome and value the input of carers and parents; together, we work hard to help realise the dreams and ambitions of our children and their families.

Please take a look around our website to find out what we can offer your child. The best way to really understand our school is to experience it. I would love to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

Ms Ela McSorley, Executive Principal

Being part of the Ark network

Ark is an international charity, 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 know that great schools need great teachers, which is why we offer you the very best training and support at every stage of your career - from starting out as a trainee to running your own school.

Our highly-successful network of 39 schools educates over 20,000 students across Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth. They are achieving some of the best results in the country despite being largely in areas of historic academic underachievement.

Ark schools prioritise six key principles: high expectations; excellent teaching; exemplary behaviour; depth before breadth; more time for learning; knowing every child.

Ark invests significantly in a number of professional development programmes which complement academy level training:

- The Ark training menu: we have developed a bespoke training menu, which is accessible by all staff in the network offering a wide range of training modules to staff in all roles
- Network support: schools share CPD, allowing us to share best practice and role specific training across the network, facilitated by in-school and central staff

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- Ark staff receive 10 training days each year rather than five creating time to collaborate with subject specialists within each school and across the network

Ark is at the forefront of changing education society through education. You can read more about how Ark is transforming lives through education [here](#).

Ark Safer Recruitment Procedure

Ark is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in its academies. In order to meet this responsibility, its academies follow a rigorous selection process to discourage and screen out unsuitable applicants.

Disclosure

This post is classified as having substantial access to children, and appointment is subject to an enhanced police check of previous criminal convictions (DBS). Applicants are required, before appointment, to disclose any conviction, caution or binding over including 'spent convictions' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975. Non-disclosure may lead to termination of employment. However, disclosure of a criminal background will not necessarily debar individuals from employment – this will depend upon the nature of the offence(s) and when they occurred.

Reference checking

References from the previous and current employer will be taken up for shortlisted candidates, and where necessary employers may be contacted to gather further information.

Probation

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 they have been employed. It provides the academy with the opportunity to monitor and review the performance of new staff in relation to various areas, but also in terms of their commitment to safeguarding and relationships with pupils.

If you have any queries, or would like more information on this role, please contact vichr@arkvictoria.org