



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)



Salary Range: £41,632 – £47,917

Actual Salary: £38,565.15 - £44,387.16

Ark Inner London Support, Grade 9, Points 25 - 33

Contract Type: Permanent, Term Time plus 3 weeks

Required for September 2026, or sooner if possible

Ark Walworth Academy is a thriving school in the heart of central London. We serve a vibrant, diverse community in Zone 2, with excellent access to all the city has to offer for students and staff alike.

We seek a passionate advocate for children to join our exemplary inclusion team. The successful candidate will have a proven track record in advocacy for vulnerable children and some experience of working with families and partner agencies. This role is student-facing, involving significant team work; we seek an optimistic professional who is resilient and committed to securing the best outcomes for children.

Our staff are:

- Committed, enthusiastic practitioners seeking to support excellent progress for our students
- Educators who aspire to the highest standards of behaviour, academic success, and wellbeing for all in our community
- Resilient, reflective and thoughtful professionals, seeking to develop themselves with us

In return, we offer:

- An externally recognised progression route with the support of a nationally recognised network
- Dedicated Network Leads for subjects and areas, providing cutting-edge training and development opportunities
- A fully accessible, well resourced, multi-million pound building in which to practice, accessible via various transport links, including train, tube and bus services from Elephant and Castle, as well as bus links from London Bridge and Tower Bridge
- A school community with a genuine family ethos, investing in staff wellbeing with sports and events
- Varied routes into teaching and industry-recognised professional qualifications (Ark Teacher Training, PGCE, Teach First, Now Teach, NPQML, NPQSL, BA and Masters programmes)
- A comprehensive support and induction programme for all staff including *accommodation in zone 2 available for ECTs and trainees.*
- A dedicated Employee Assistance and benefits package from Ark Rewards

Further details about the post and how to apply can be found on our website: www.walworthacademy.org

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis therefore early applications are encouraged.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Job Description: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Reporting to:	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Location:	Ark Walworth Academy
Contract:	Permanent
Working Pattern:	Term Time plus 3 weeks
Salary:	Ark Support Grade 9: Pay Points 25 - 33 (pro rata)

The Role

As the DDSL at the Academy, you will be responsible for the both operational case management of safeguarding issues, and for development of safeguarding and child protection policies, training and procedures. You will create strong working relationships with outside agencies to enable 'wrap around' support for student and their families. You will work to the DSL in ensuring a climate of inclusion and robust safeguarding for young people.

Key Responsibilities

Policies & Reporting

- Implement the academy's Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures in line with national, statutory and Ark requirements
- Initiate and deliver regular induction and training on all aspects of Safeguarding and Child Protection to all staff across the school, ensuring that staff are kept up to date on current procedures
- Track and monitor the delivery and impact support programmes to ensure they have maximum impact on enabling the child to be safe, happy and successful
- Actively manage cases through a range of operational strategies, including receipt of disclosure, attending and participating in Child Protection Conferences and Planning and Review meetings within and outside normal working hours
- Prepare relevant reports for specific audiences
- Deliver efficient administration using MS Office, cloud collaboration tools and relevant systems to streamline processes and maintain accurate records
- Maintain detailed, accurate, confidential and up-to-date records on all cases of safeguarding and child protection

Outreach

- Plan and complete professional assessments of need and risk regarding parents and carers using the appropriate procedures for children in need and significant harm
- Attend and participate in Child Protection Conferences and Planning and Review meetings; these may fall outside of normal working hours
- Coordinate the multi-agency approach as preventative measures and to address child protection issues
- Work directly with children in need and their families in the community in order to promote, strengthen and develop the potential of parents/carers and their children in order to prevent children becoming looked after and/or suffering harm
- Provide impartial information to families about relevant local services available to parents, children and families
- Communicate regularly with parents/carers/families and build strong effective relationships

- Work closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Attendance Officer, to deal with attendance issues

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: Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Qualification Criteria

- Qualified to degree level or equivalent, desirable

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Experience of safeguarding, working with children/young people in education, social work, youth work, etc., particularly managing child protection cases and investigations
- Experience of establishing effective relationships with children, their families, other stakeholders and the wider community
- Experience of developing policies and/or procedures
- Detailed and authoritative knowledge of safeguarding and child protection
- In-depth knowledge of the range of additional support/agencies which assist students
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to maintain effective working relationships with a variety of stakeholders
- Strong problem solving and analytical abilities
- Able to balance competing priorities, work on own initiative and to tight deadlines
- Able to write reports, summarise clearly and articulate concepts and proposals
- Strong administrative skills and IT literacy; must be confident with Microsoft Office and must be able and willing to learn new systems

Behaviours

- Genuine passion for and a belief in the potential of every pupil
- A robust awareness of keeping children safe, noticing safeguarding and welfare concerns, and you understand how and when to take appropriate action
- Belief that every student should have access to an excellent education regardless of background
- Professional outlook, detailed orientated and able to multi task and meet deadlines
- A team player that can work collaboratively as well as using own initiative
- Calm and professional under pressure
- Understanding of the importance of confidentiality and discretion
- Flexible attitude towards work and demonstrates sound judgement

Other

- Right to work in the UK
- 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 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.

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](#).