



Catering Assistant

Reporting to:	Catering Supervisor/Operations Manager
Location:	Ark Alexandra Academy, Hastings, East Sussex
Contract:	Permanent
Working Pattern:	25 hours per week, 9:30am - 2:30pm, term time only plus 1 extra week (40 weeks per year)
Start date:	As soon as possible
Salary:	Ark Outside London Support Scale 2, Pay Points 2-3: £24,482 to £24,795 (pro rata)
Actual Salary:	£14,999.02 - £15,190.78 (gross) paid in 12 equal monthly payments
Closing date:	11:59pm on 20 September 2026

*The school reserves the right to withdraw this advert if a suitable candidate is appointed before the closing date. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early for this role to avoid disappointment.***

Ark Alexandra

Ark Alexandra is a large secondary academy in Hastings, East Sussex. As a Church of England school, our values of faith, excellence and kindness underpin our ethos, culture and behaviour. We have an inclusive admissions policy that welcomes, without preference, students of all faith and none. We believe that everyone deserves to be accepted, included, and empowered to live a purposeful and fulfilling life.

Our vision is to provide all members of our community with the opportunities to engage with 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). This will be achieved through the highest quality of education that a truly great school will provide. We are committed to striving for excellence and inspiring our students to fulfil their potential. Our faith underpins our aim for all students to have the widest possible life choices. By knowing every student, demonstrating kindness, we will inspire every member of Ark Alexandra to have a positive impact on the community around them.

We continuously strive to maintain and further develop a safe, calm and purposeful environment, in which all children feel happy, secure and respected. Our commitment to safeguarding is further detailed in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which can be found on our website [here](#). Joining our school team is an excellent opportunity for a proactive person who wants to make a lasting difference to the communities they serve.

Our school is on an exciting rapid upward trajectory. Ark Alexandra operates as one school across two 6FE campuses. This creates the dual benefit of working within a small school family setting, whilst providing unique opportunities for growth, development and career opportunities that exist in a large school model.

We take a traditional and research-based approach to education with a primacy placed on cognitive science, scholarship and what the best schools do. We are a no-nonsense school where staff can focus their efforts on teaching great lessons. Our focus on extra-curricular activities including DofE (bronze to gold), Army Cadet Force and reward trips ensures our students benefit from a range of exciting opportunities.

How is Ark Alexandra different?

- We are part of the Ark family of schools and benefit accordingly from outstanding networking and career opportunities and first-class CPD.
- Staff wellbeing is one of our main priorities. We have an 8am - 5.30pm/weekend work-related communication curfew to ensure our staff can maintain a work/life balance.
- Our systems and processes for communication and assessment are streamlined, research led and based on the needs of our local context.
- Behaviour for learning is always a high priority so our teachers can focus their time on the things that matter – planning and delivering brilliant lessons for our students.
- This is a strict no excuses, mobile phone free school.
- We offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities for our students that have excellent attendance and feedback.
- Our curriculum is academic and designed to prepare our students for the workplace in the 21st century
- We put high-quality teaching at the heart of what we do. Live coaching and current best practice in the field of education is central to our approach.
- There is the opportunity to steer your own career. There is a range of professional development opportunities available.
- As we are part of the large Ark network, this means that we work collaboratively with other schools to build a curriculum suitable for all students and bespoke to our context.

- Salaries higher than the national pay scales.
- Twice as many training days as standard with network-wide events with Ark colleagues.
- Unique opportunities for growth and development
- Access to Ark Rewards – a scheme offering savings from over 3,000 major retailers

If you are ready to add further value to our school by helping to provide consistent, high-quality meal service to our students and staff, you will find this job extremely rewarding.

Alignment with the school's vision, values and approach to education is essential.

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. This process is outlined below and can be provided in more detail if requested.

Disclosure

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.

Shortlisting

Only those candidates meeting the required criteria will be taken forward from application.

Interview

1. Shortlisted candidates will take part in an in-depth interview process that will include a competency-based interview, and for all teaching roles, will include a lesson observation or similar practical assessment.
2. Candidates will be asked to address any discrepancies, anomalies or gaps in their application.

Reference checking

References from the previous and current employer will be requested 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.

A Commitment to Encourage Diversity

Ark is committed to eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity amongst our employees. Our aim is that our workforce will be truly representative of all sections of society and that each employee feels respected and able to give their best. To that end we are committed to provide equality and fairness for all in our recruitment and employment practices and not to discriminate on any grounds. We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination.

The Role and the Department

This is a rare opportunity to join our hard-working, dedicated catering team. As a catering assistant you will be based at one of our two campuses under the direction of a Catering Supervisor. This is a term time only position, which means you will only work 39 weeks of the year, plus one extra week in the school holidays as directed by your manager. Pay is spread evenly over the year so you would never have a month without money.

Our standards are high and meals are prepared daily from fresh ingredients. We need someone who can work quickly and safely, be part of a team and has the confidence to interact with staff and students. We will show the successful applicant how to operate our cashless tills and any other items of catering equipment.

For more information please read the job description and person specification below.

About Ark Schools

Ark is an education charity with a network of 39 non-selective schools in London, Birmingham, Hastings and Portsmouth educating 30,000 students.

Ark's aim is to create outstanding schools that give every student, regardless of their background, access to a great education and real choices in life.

How to Apply

To apply, please visit www.arkalexandra.org/jobs/vacancies to complete an online application form.

If you have any questions about the role please contact our HR Department on ALEHR@arkalexandra.org - please be aware there may be a delay in responding to your query due to the summer holidays.

Please note: we are unable to accept applications via CV. We will also be reviewing applications on an on-going basis and this advert may close earlier than advertised depending on the level of response. Early application is strongly encouraged. You will be able to pause, save and log back in to complete your application up until the vacancy closes.

Closing Date: 11:59pm on 20 September 2026

Ark value diversity and are committed to safeguarding and promoting child welfare. The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and any other relevant employment checks.

Job Description: Catering Assistant

Reporting to:	Catering Supervisor/Operations Manager
Location:	Ark Alexandra Academy, Hastings, East Sussex
Contract:	Permanent
Working Pattern:	Part-time – 25 hours per week, term time only plus 1 extra week
Salary:	Ark Outside London Support Scale 2: Pay Points 2 – 3: £24,482 - £24,795 (pro rata)

The Role

As a Catering Assistant you will be working as part of a team who ensure the delivery of a consistent, high-quality meal service that meets the needs of the Academy by assisting with all aspects of food preparation, food service, kitchen hygiene and other duties associated with the running of the kitchen and food service operations.

Key Responsibilities

- Assist in the preparation and cooking of a range of nutritious food for meal times
- Serve the food to an exceptional standard and interact with the staff and pupils in an appropriate and helpful way, providing a knowledgeable service at all times, in particular with regard to allergens and other dietary requirements
- Assist in the sale, service and clearing of all food, beverages and utensils
- Handle cash as required under supervision and/or operate a cashless till and any other items of catering machinery or equipment, as directed
- Assist with routine and deep cleaning of the kitchen, food storage, service and dining areas, including heavy and light equipment and machinery, crockery and cutlery, in accordance with the cleaning schedule
- Follow established kitchen systems and procedures to guarantee an efficient and organised meal service
- Assist with events and functions as required
- Receive deliveries, ensure correct stock rotation ensuring that all perishable and non-perishable commodities are stored under the correct conditions

Other

- Actively promotes the safety and welfare of our children and young people
- Ensures compliance with Arks data protection rules and procedures

- Work with Ark Central and other academies in the Ark network, to establish good practice throughout the network, offering support where required

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 students.

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/Line Manager.

Person Specification: Catering Assistant

Qualifications

- Health & Safety and Food Hygiene qualification Level 3 or willing to train, essential
- First Aid qualification, desirable

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Experience working in a busy kitchen
- Experience catering in large quantities within a school setting, desirable
- Experience of working with children, desirable

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
- Friendly, calm and approachable, even under pressure

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

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