

1st November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that today we have begun a consultation on the proposal to bring together Ark Swift Primary Academy and Ark Burlington Danes Primary Academy, to create one school from September 2023.

The school, which is proposed to be called Ark White City Primary Academy, would be housed in the brand new school building currently under construction on our school site. As you know, this new school building is at the heart of EdCity – an exciting £150m development in White City creating a new nursery building and youth zone as well as new office accommodation and affordable housing.

I understand that this news may come as a surprise, but I want to take the opportunity to explain the reasons for this proposal.

Over the last few years, there has been a growing gap between the number of primary school places in Hammersmith and Fulham and the falling number of children available to fill them. This has been caused by a combination of a falling birth rate, reduced migration into the city and, more recently, the impact of the pandemic. All of these factors have significantly altered pupil number forecasts and, across the borough, there are now nearly 20% more places than pupils, a significantly larger gap than the London average.

As you will be aware, our school is already operating as a 1FE school in all year groups in response to falling numbers – but we need to do more to secure a stable future for our children. We believe that bringing Swift and BDA primaries together would create a financially viable school in an exceptional new building to deliver increased resources and a better experience for all our children.

As part of this consultation, we are also proposing to name the merged primary school, along with Ark Conway and Ark Bentworth, as named feeder schools to Ark Burlington Danes Academy from September 2023.

The consultation process is designed to enable you to have your say. It will last for six weeks – running from today, Monday 1st November to Sunday 12th December. At the end of the consultation, a report will be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) who will make the final decision. This report will also be published on the consultation [website](#) and we would hope to receive a final decision from the DfE by March 2022.



Ark Swift Primary Academy

We very much want to hear your views on this proposal and we will be holding a number of parent meetings which you are welcome attend:

- Tuesday 2nd November, 9am
- Wednesday 3rd November, 2.30pm
- Monday 8th November, 9am

Further information on the proposal, including an online response form, can be found on the consultation [website](#).

Best wishes,

Daniel Upfield
Principal