



# Ark



# About us



# What we do

Ark is a charity that aims to transform children’s lives through education.

Our network of schools in the UK achieves great results for young people, and some of our schools are among the best in the country.

The ventures that we develop and support are tackling some of the most challenging problems facing young people, both in the UK and around the world.

## UK schools




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## Ark Ventures




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Our Ventures





Ark Family









# UK schools

## A network of excellent schools

In the UK, Ark's network of 37 non-selective schools includes primary, secondary and all-through academies.

Our aim is to create outstanding schools that give every student, regardless of their background, the opportunity to go to university or pursue the career of their choice.





## A network of excellent schools

# Achieving strong results

Our schools work to make sure that all students receive an outstanding education and leave with the qualifications they need to succeed in life.

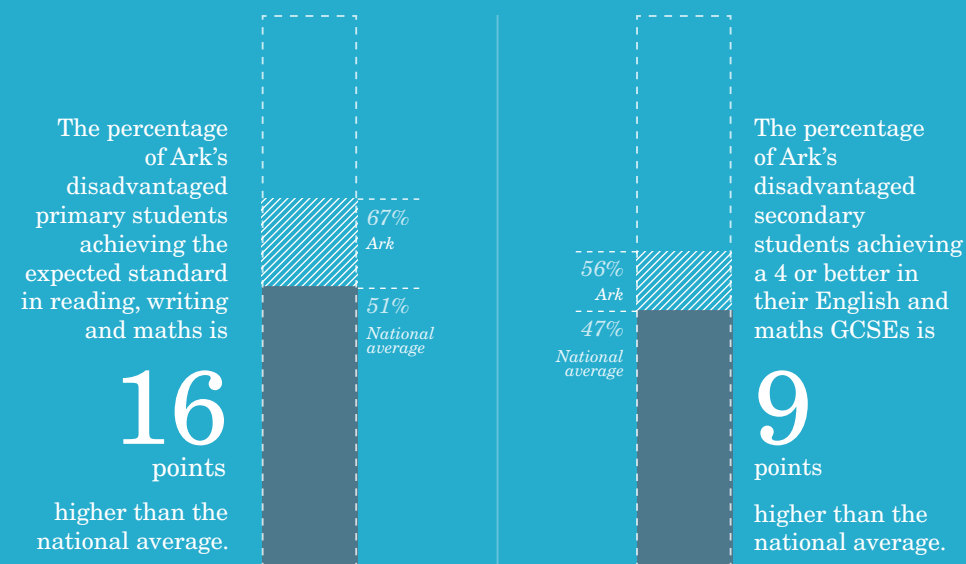
Since we work mostly in areas of economic disadvantage, our schools have a higher proportion of disadvantaged students – **42% compared to the national average of 25%**. These students, who are eligible for the pupil premium grant, are more likely to start

school behind their peers academically, and are therefore at risk of leaving school with fewer chances in life. Our schools achieve particularly strong results for these students, making sure that their circumstances are not a barrier to success.

## Closing the achievement gap for disadvantaged students

Ark's disadvantaged students make nearly **half a grade** more progress in each of their subjects than their peers nationally.

Ark's disadvantaged students are **more likely than non-disadvantaged students nationally** to attend the most selective universities.





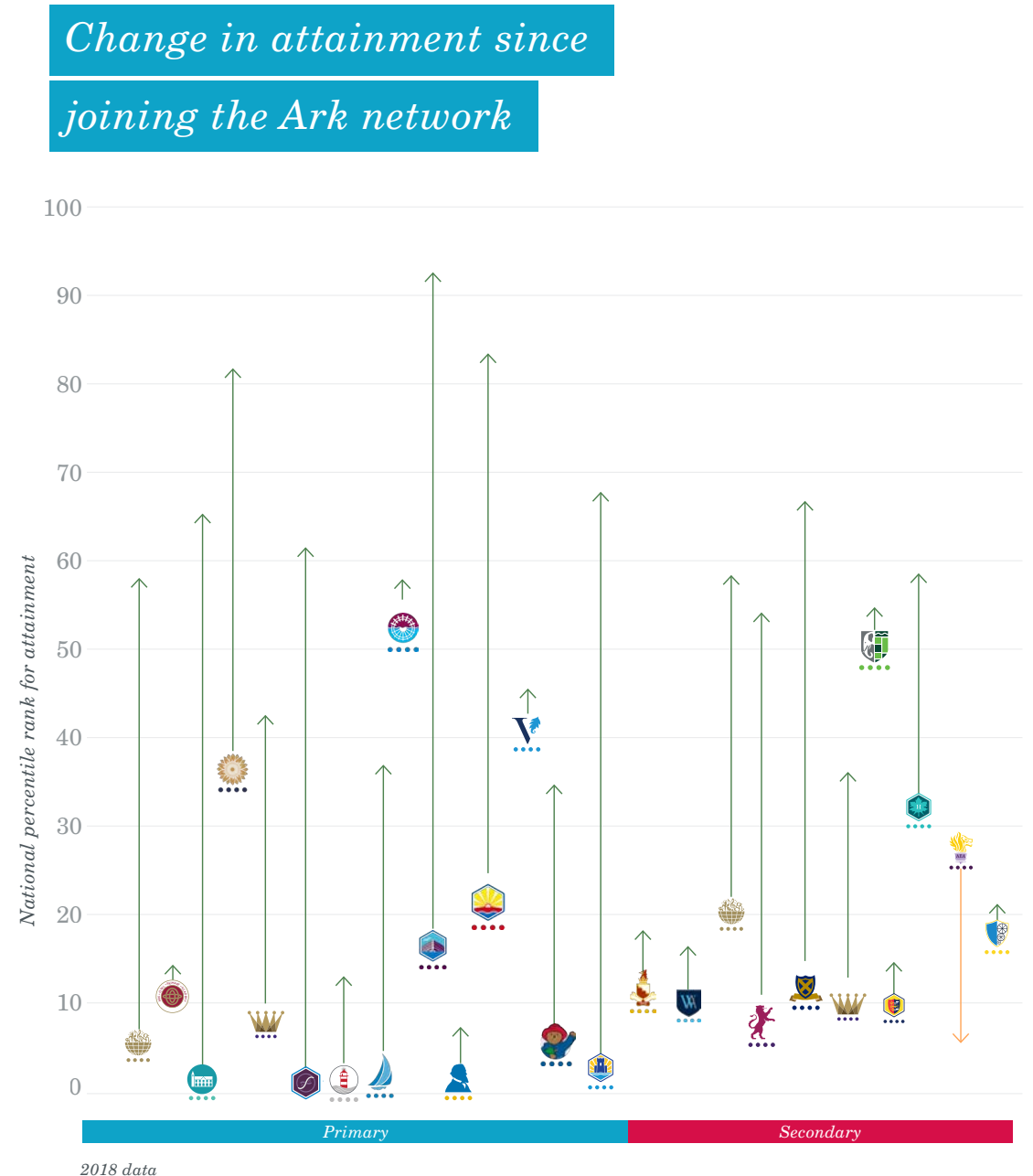
Ark Oval Primary Academy

### A network of excellent schools

## Turning around challenging schools

Most Ark schools were existing schools that joined the network to improve – often from difficult circumstances.

In 2018, **25 out of 26** of Ark's transition schools had a higher national ranking than before they joined Ark, with most making considerable progress.





A network of excellent schools

# Building successful new schools

Nearly a third of Ark’s schools are new. They have been established to provide pupil places for communities that need them.

100%

of Ark’s new schools that have been inspected by Ofsted are rated good or outstanding.

75%

of Ark’s new schools achieve results that place them within the top 20% of schools nationally.





Ark Alexandra Academy

### How we do it

## A shared approach

While each Ark school has its own ethos and character, they all draw upon the same principles – our six pillars – in support of our shared mission to transform lives through education.

### *Our six pillars*

HIGH  
EXPECTATIONS

EXCELLENT  
TEACHING

DEPTH  
FOR  
BREADTH

KNOWING  
EVERY  
CHILD

EXEMPLARY  
BEHAVIOUR

ALWAYS  
LEARNING





### How we do it

## A broad and balanced curriculum

Students learn best when their lessons build cumulatively from year to year and coherently across different subjects.

At Ark, our teachers and subject specialists have crafted an evidence-based curriculum that spans the core school subjects. It covers the specific knowledge that is beneficial for young people to learn, and carefully sets the sequence in which they should study it.

This curriculum helps embed consistency and quality across a whole network, while reducing teachers' workload and giving them access to high quality classroom resources and lesson plans.



## How we do it

# Training outstanding teachers

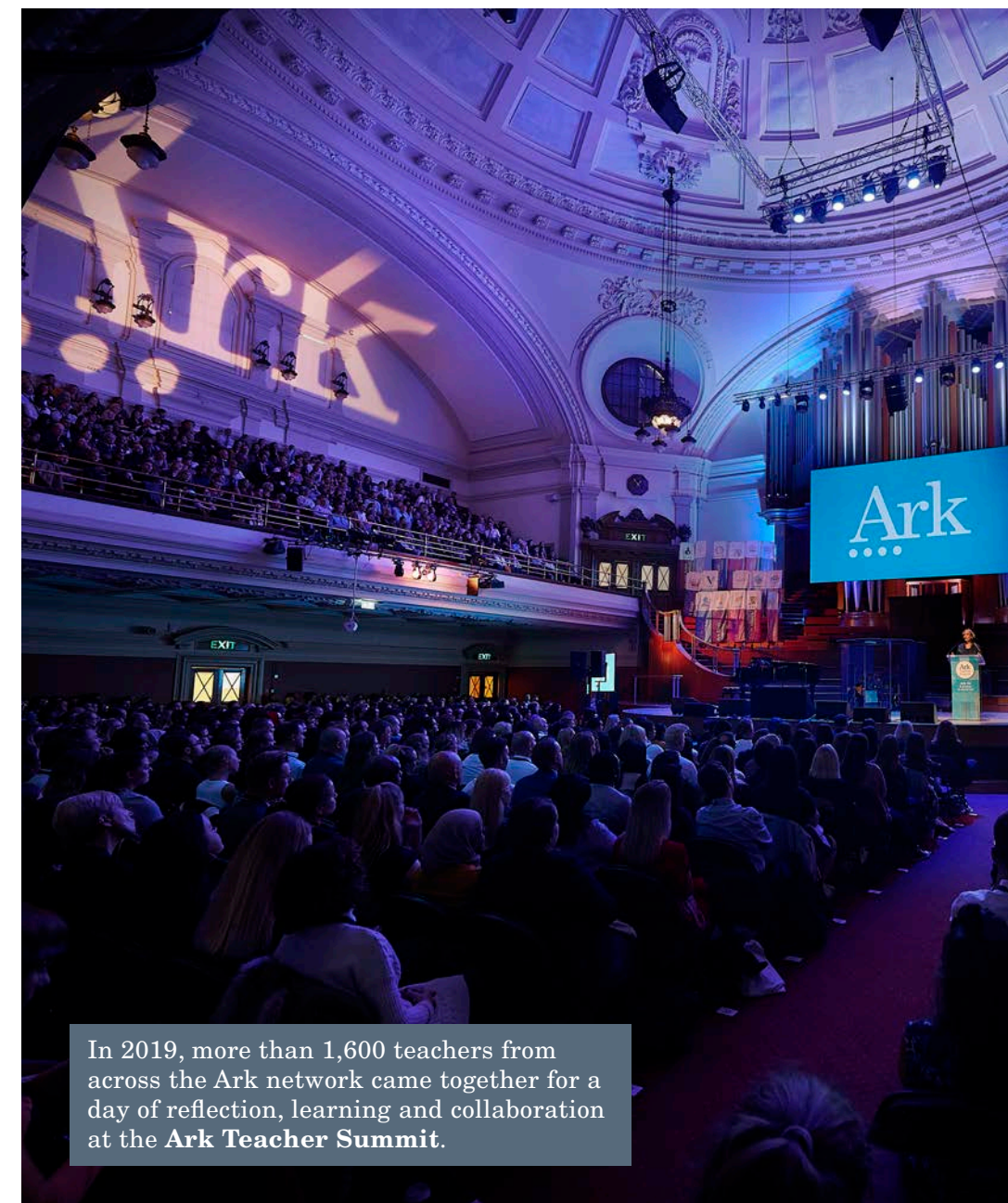
Great teachers are the key to Ark's success. We prioritise their development so they are able to keep improving – at all stages of their career.

Our schools allocate at least ten days a year to training staff – **double the national standard**. There is a diverse range of training available, from subject and department specific sessions, to network-wide training days where staff from all of our schools come together to learn from each other.

For those aspiring to become teachers, we support trainees intensively through their first few years of teaching. Our teacher training programme provides trainees with university-accredited qualifications. **It has been rated outstanding in all areas by Ofsted**, who praised the “*exceptionally tailored coaching and training...of the very highest standard*”.

• •  
*One of the best things about my school is the great professional development opportunities I've had. I feel like I've learned more and had more supportive feedback in my time here than I did when I was first training to teach!*  
• •

Meryl, Head of Year 7 at Ark Elvin Academy.



In 2019, more than 1,600 teachers from across the Ark network came together for a day of reflection, learning and collaboration at the **Ark Teacher Summit**.





Ark Byron Primary Academy

**More than just great academic results**

## Learning beyond the classroom

There's a lot more to education than passing exams. Music, art, sport and an exploration of university and careers are also critical to a child's time at school, giving them exciting opportunities and helping them open doors later in life.

Whether attending debates in the Houses of Parliament, working on experiments led by world-leading scientists, exploring the Canadian wilderness or volunteering in their local communities, our students are constantly encouraged to take part in experiences beyond their usual classroom environment.

All of our students have the chance to broaden their horizons through music, which is a core part of life in all of our schools. Our music programme includes network choirs, ensembles, and instrumental and vocal programmes – culminating with the chance to perform on stage at our inspirational music gala.



Ark Music Gala



## More than just great academic results

# Preparing students for success after school

How students do in exams is only part of the story. We want to make sure that every young person has a genuine choice about their future when they leave school. We give our students a number of opportunities to help them achieve beyond the academics of school, and we are supported in this through our network of 150 universities, third sector organisations and companies.

### For example:

- Our **Professional Pathways** programme prepares sixth form students for the workplace by providing them with a high-quality technical curriculum.
- Our **Cultivating Excellence** programme supports students applying to Oxbridge, US universities, medicine, and top apprenticeships.
- Our **Foundation Year** programme supports sixth formers who are retaking their English and maths GCSEs – giving them a second chance to achieve qualifications which are a gateway to many post-school options.
- Our schools work to make sure that students have access to **high quality careers provision**.
- Each year, donors provide more than £500,000 of **bursaries and accommodation** to around 150 students, to help them succeed and fully take part in university life.
- Our **alumni community** of 4,500 former students are supported into rewarding careers, through events, internships, networking and mentoring opportunities.

## 82%

In 2019, 82% of our sixth formers gained a higher education place, compared with a national average of 59%.

## 7x

In 2019, 35% of Ark's Professional Pathways (BTEC) students progressed to top third universities. This is seven times the national average for BTEC students (5%).

## 3x

Ark's disadvantaged students are three times more likely to attend the most selective universities than their national peers.



Ark Putney Academy



Mathematics Mastery (School: Kingsbury Green Primary School)

# Ventures

At Ark, we know the impact that a great education can have. We see it in the results that our students achieve across our network of schools.

Ark Ventures was established to take this further – to create change beyond our own schools, in the UK and around the world.



# Working with and launching new initiatives

Ark Ventures incubates, launches and scales initiatives that have the potential to transform the lives of children.

Working with people and organisations that share Ark's mission, Ark Ventures provides support to new programmes so they grow into sustainable organisations.

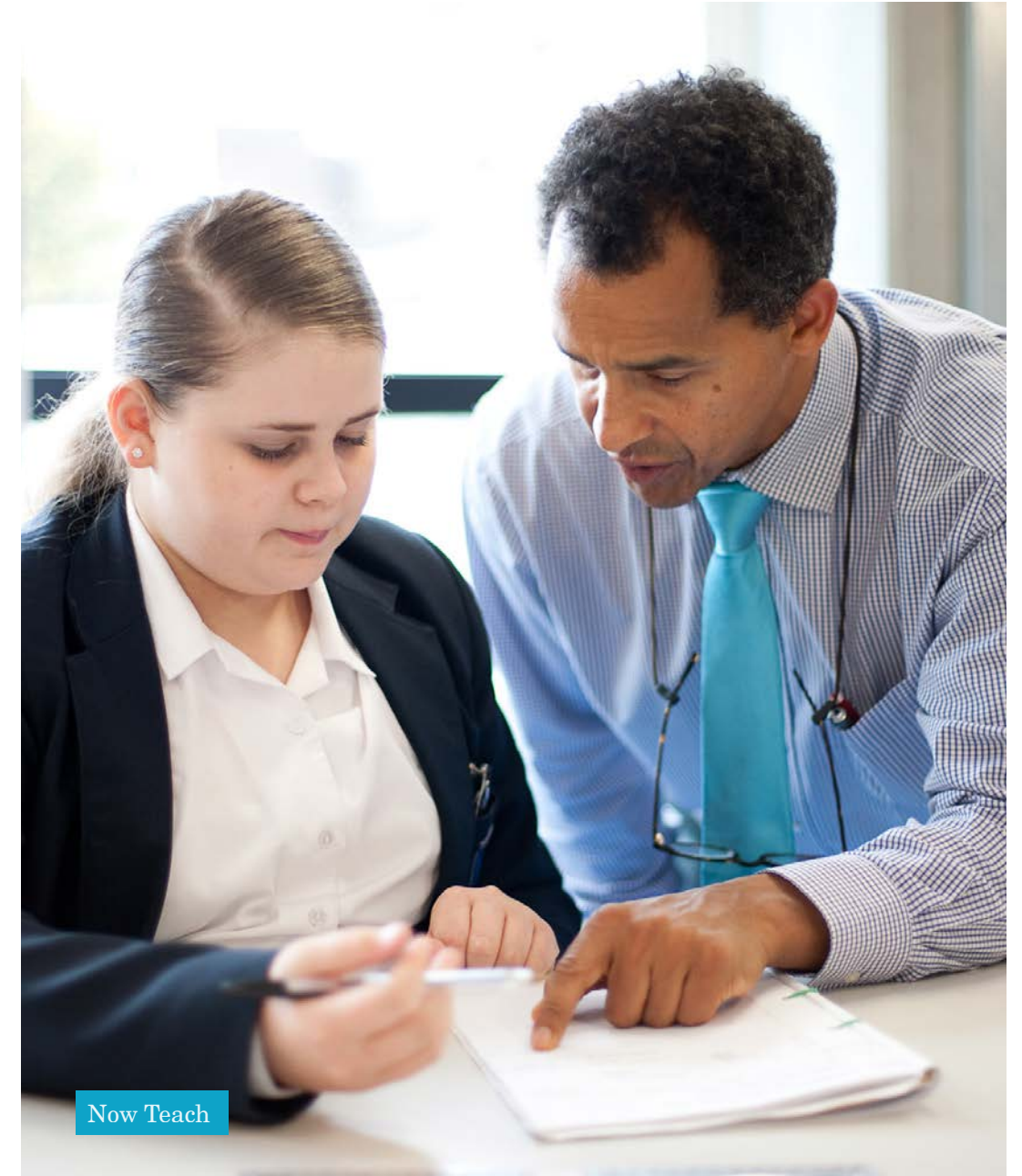
The ideas for many of these ventures originated in Ark. Others have come from innovators outside Ark. They all share the ambition to address some of the most challenging issues in education and society – and all have the potential to achieve systemic change.



*At a glance...*

**11** ventures  
improving the lives of  
young people.

Programmes and partners  
across  
**34** countries



Now Teach

# Ventures

Ark Ventures contributes strategic and operational support to these new initiatives, while they grow into sustainable organisations.



**Now Teach** addresses teacher shortages by offering experienced professionals from a variety of careers a structured pathway into teaching. Their programme provides bespoke support and a peer network, to help these teachers thrive in the classroom for the long term.

[nowteach.org.uk](http://nowteach.org.uk)



**Ark Start** is a pilot early education programme serving children age 0 – 5 and their families. Drawing on Ark’s experience in early years, Ark Start aims to close the gap that opens before children reach school by setting up flexible, affordable nurseries led by qualified teachers and highly trained staff.

[arkonline.org/arkstart](http://arkonline.org/arkstart)



**Education Partnerships Group** is an international not-for-profit consultancy. They work with governments to help shape and strengthen their education systems – helping to give all children the chance to go to school and learn.

[epg.org.uk](http://epg.org.uk)



**Global Schools Forum** strengthens education sectors in developing countries by working with non-state organisations who are serving children from low-income backgrounds. They work with 48 organisations across 33 countries providing education to more than 2.2 million children.

[globalschoolsforum.org](http://globalschoolsforum.org)



# Ark Curriculum Partnerships

**Ark Curriculum Partnerships** brings together subject-specific curriculum programmes used in Ark’s network of schools and beyond.

The programmes, such as **English Mastery** and **Mathematics Mastery**, include curriculum resources and professional development. Designed by education experts and teachers, these programmes are built on evidence-based research to make sure that students gain strong foundations and a cumulative understanding in each subject to enable them to reach their potential.

**Ark Music** is now also available beyond Ark’s network and other new curriculum programmes are being planned.



English Mastery



**English Mastery** gives pupils the opportunity to study the knowledge, concepts, stories and ideas that shaped the world.

The programme provides more than 100 partner schools with a knowledge-rich English curriculum, and a structured programme of subject-specific professional development, to develop mastery of the discipline of English.

[englishmastery.org](http://englishmastery.org)



**Mathematics Mastery** is an integrated programme of professional development, curriculum planning and materials. It is designed to help every child enjoy and succeed in mathematics. The programme is used by more than 500 schools and reaches more than 200,000 primary and secondary students.

[mathematicsmastery.org](http://mathematicsmastery.org)



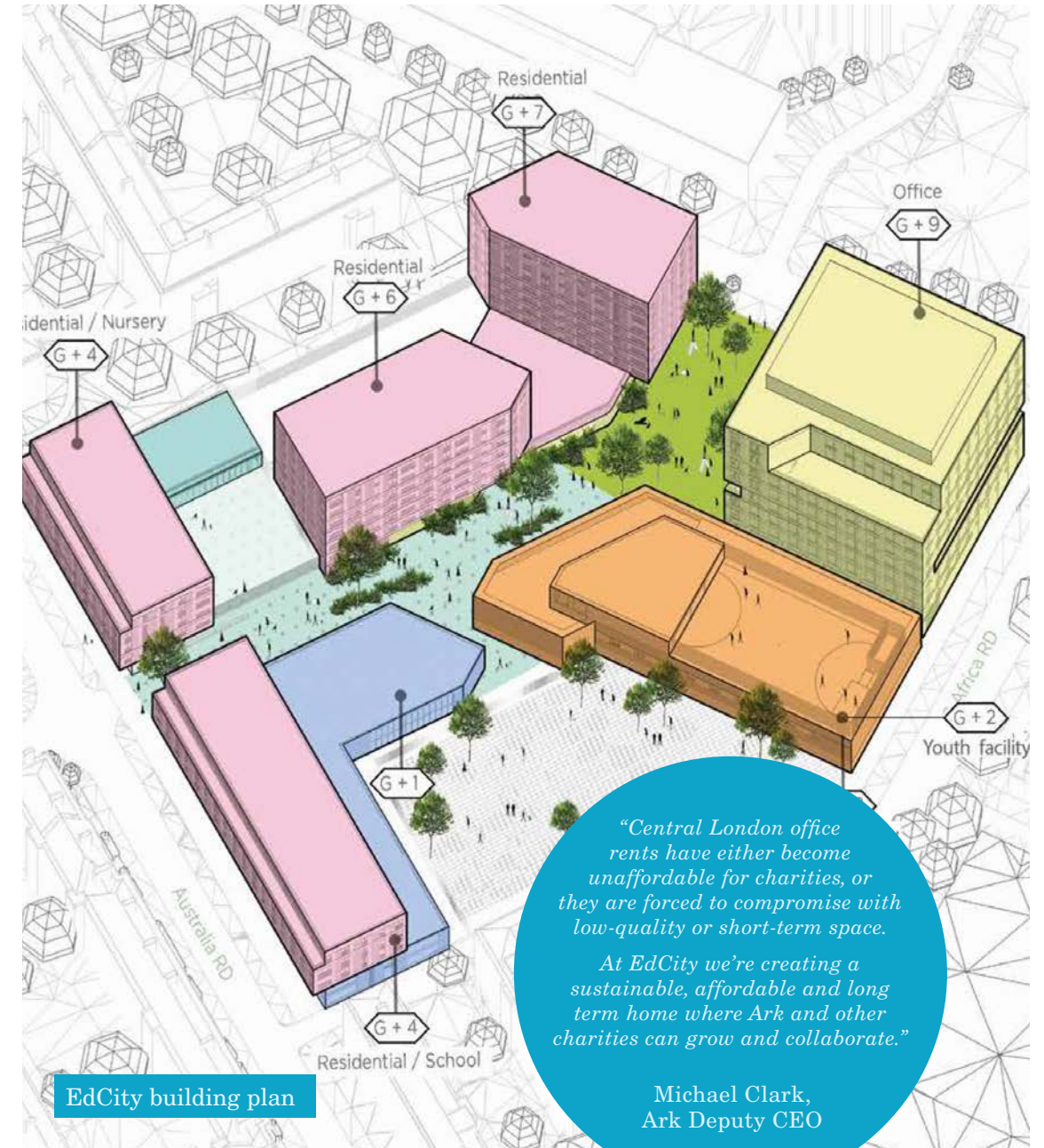
**EdCity** will be an innovative education hub in White City, London. In partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Ark is rebuilding the outdated Ark Swift Primary School, as well as the nursery and adult education premises. The mixed-use scheme will also include affordable and keyworker housing, a new youth centre, a community café, and an improved public space.

The new site will feature a 100,000 square foot office building where the Ark family of organisations will relocate.

[edcity.org.uk](https://edcity.org.uk)



Along with an education training centre, this office will provide space for other mission-aligned organisations who will rent it below market rates, while also committing to help to improve local education and social outcomes.





# Ark Family

Former Ark ventures remain part of the Ark Family, and they continue to collaborate and share close links with Ark.



**Ambition Institute** is a graduate school for teachers, school leaders and system leaders. Its programmes help educators serving children from disadvantaged backgrounds to keep getting better.

[ambition.org.uk](http://ambition.org.uk)

Ambition Institute



**Assembly** is a data platform for school information management. It connects school improvement systems and offers accessible data dashboards, helping schools make more informed decisions. It was acquired by Groupcall in January 2019.

[assembly.education](http://assembly.education)



**Peepul** is a non-profit working to transform children's lives in India. Since 2010, Peepul has partnered with the government and other organisations to run schools and deliver education programmes.

[peepulindia.org](http://peepulindia.org)



**Frontline** works to transform the lives of vulnerable children by recruiting and developing outstanding individuals to be leaders in social work and broader society.

[thefrontline.org.uk](http://thefrontline.org.uk)



**STiR Education** supports education systems to reignite intrinsic motivation in teachers and officials through teacher networks. STiR is currently impacting 200,000 teachers and 6 million children across India and Uganda.

[STiReducation.org](http://STiReducation.org)

# How you can help

Ark is addressing big challenges – we can only do this by working with like-minded organisations and individuals who can help us achieve our goal of changing lives through education. There are many ways you can help.

## Partner with us

Whether it is a short-term project to train students in one of our schools, or a long-term educational innovation programme, there are a variety of ways we collaborate with organisations. This is integral to achieving our mission and we are always looking for new opportunities to collaborate.

## Volunteer

You don't have to be a teacher to inspire students. We have a number of volunteering opportunities available in our schools for organisations and individuals. These range from giving a talk, to providing work experience or mentoring.

To discuss ways in which you can support us and make a difference to the lives of young people, please contact us at [info@arkonline.org](mailto:info@arkonline.org).

## Become a governor

We are looking for people to provide leadership and support for our schools and ventures.

You don't have to be an educator, lawyer or an accountant to be a school governor or sit on the board of a venture. We're looking for people from a range of backgrounds and experiences who have an interest in improving education and making a difference.

## Donate

Ark creates and delivers a variety of programmes and ventures inside and outside our schools that directly benefit young people. We can only do this with support from generous donors. If you would like to discuss ways you can support our schools and programmes, please get in touch.



Ark Blacklands Primary Academy





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