



**Press Release**

**ARK Education Latest  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

**ARK makes opening bid to build an inner city school in London**

ARK (Absolute Return for Kids) has officially indicated its interest in building a school in Islington in cooperation with the UK government's Academies programme.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is reviewing an "Expression of Interest" (Eoi), approved by Islington Council's Executive Committee on 17 June 2004. The Eoi has been developed through a close partnership between Islington Council and ARK Education, working with Islington Green and Moreland schools. Following the DfES review, the Eoi will be put forward for Ministerial approval.

Academies are all-ability schools established by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups working in highly innovative partnerships with central Government and local education partners. Sponsors and the DfES provide the capital costs for the Academy. Running costs are met in full by the DfES.

The vision for the new Academy is to establish "a pioneering new school in Islington serving the whole community, that thrives on innovation and creativity, offering state-of-the-art facilities, the highest standards of education, and a culture of high expectation", according to the Eoi.

**Notes to Editors:**

ARK, Absolute Return for Kids, has now completed its second year raising over £17,000,000 for social investments in the UK and Eastern Europe and South Africa. ARK's mission is to help transform the lives of children who are victims of abuse, disability, illness and poverty. ARK's rigorous project research and selection process is followed by close monitoring and impact evaluation to ensure that its social investments deliver the greatest social return on investment possible.

ARK Education is a wholly owned subsidiary of ARK.