

**Southwark Diocesan
Board of Education
Multi-Academy Trust**

Mr Mark Burnett FCIPD, FCMI

Chief Executive Officer

The Venerable Jonathan Sedgwick

Archdeacon of Southwark & Chair of the Trust Board

12 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: POTENTIAL SCHOOL REBUILD & AMALGAMATION

We are writing to share some important and positive news about the future of our schools, and to ask for your views as we consider the next steps.

Exciting news about our school buildings

We have recently been informed by the Department for Education that the school has been provisionally selected for the School Rebuilding Programme. This represents a significant opportunity to improve the learning environment for our children on the existing site.

The programme supports major rebuilding and refurbishment projects for schools across England. New buildings are designed to modern standards, providing high quality classrooms, specialist teaching spaces, and improved facilities for both children and staff. They are also designed to be environmentally sustainable and fit for the future.

At this stage, the project is still in its early phases, and no final decisions have been made. However, being provisionally selected is a very positive step, and we are delighted that the school has been identified for this opportunity.

We will keep you updated on progress.

Building on the progress already in place

As you will know, in recent years the infant and junior schools have been working increasingly closely together. Under the headteacher's leadership, this has brought clear and meaningful benefits for children, staff and families.

These include:

- a more consistent and well sequenced curriculum from Nursery through to Year 6
- smoother transition from Year 2 to Year 3 and removal of the current application process, thereby reducing uncertainty for children
- stronger support for pupils with additional needs, with greater continuity of care
- clearer and more consistent communication with families
- increased opportunities for staff to collaborate and share best practice
- greater alignment in how resources are used and how the school day is organised

We now also have shared leadership and governance arrangements, and in many respects already operate as one school community. This has created a stronger and more joined up experience for children and families. This progress gives us a solid foundation on which to consider

what the next step should be.

A proposal to become one primary school

Alongside the rebuilding opportunity, we are now considering whether it would be right to formally become a single primary school for children from Nursery to Year 6, rather than continue as two separate schools.

The proposed primary school would continue to provide 600 places for pupils from Nursery to Year 6, the same total number currently available across The Minster Nursery and Infant School (240 places) and The Minster Junior School (360 places), with no increase in overall capacity.

All the children currently in the Infant and Junior schools will automatically become pupils in the primary school if the two schools amalgamate.

This is not about changing the character of the school, but about building on what is already working well and putting it on a clear and sustainable footing for the future.

We believe this would continue to help:

- create a fully coherent educational journey from Nursery through to Year 6
- allow staff to build a deeper understanding of each child over time, supporting progress more effectively
- ensure continuity in teaching, support and pastoral care as children move through the school
- remove the need for families to apply again at the end of Year 2
- simplify systems and communication for parents, with a single set of arrangements
- reduce duplication in processes, allowing more time and resource to focus on teaching and learning

It would also help with our staff workload, as it would mean that there is only one Ofsted inspection, as opposed to two, and only one SIAMS inspection, as opposed to two. We also think there will be savings as a number of the licenses and contracts the schools have would reduce, as we became one school. These savings could be fairly significant and help us invest more in our teaching and learning.

We think bringing the schools together would help ensure a structure that is both efficient and sustainable, while continuing to provide a high-quality education and strong support for every child.

What would this mean in practice?

For most children and families, we expect very little day to day change.

- Children would continue to learn on the same site
- There would be no change to the school day, uniform, or daily routines
- Staff would remain in place, with no change to terms and conditions
- The leadership, values and expectations of the school would continue
- The name of the school would change from 'Infants and Junior' to 'Primary'

In reality, much of what this proposal would formalise is already in place. Many families will already experience the schools as a single, joined up community.

To explain this clearly, there is one technical step required to create a single school. To bring the two schools together legally, one of the existing schools would formally close, while the other would extend its age range to include all children from Nursery through to Year 6. This is a legal formality required to establish one school, rather than two. It

does not mean that a school is being lost in any real sense, nor does it change the experience for children and families.

All children would remain on the same site, with the same staff, and the same day to day experience. What changes is simply the legal structure, bringing everything together as one school with a single identity, leadership and inspection framework.

Full details of the proposal to become a single school can be found in the business case which we encourage you to read. You can find out how below.

It is a requirement to seek the views of parents/carers and wider community on the proposed changes. You can complete the short consultation survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H6HB5WQ>

This consultation will remain open until 13th July 2026.

How does this link to the rebuilding project?

At this stage, the rebuilding programme is still at an early point. There are no confirmed plans yet about what a new building might look like, how the site might be organised, or what facilities might be included.

However, we believe that being a single primary school would place us in the strongest possible position as discussions progress. It would allow any future development to be designed around a clear, all through model for children from Nursery to Year 6, rather than two separate organisations. If the project moves forward, there will be further opportunities for parents, carers and the wider community to help shape those plans.

Your views matter

This is not a final decision. We are now entering a period of consultation and would very much welcome your views.

We are starting with you, our parents and carers, as your perspective is essential. We will also be seeking feedback from staff, the Local Authority, the Diocesan Board of Education, the local church, and the wider community.

You will be able to share your thoughts on the proposal, raise any questions, and highlight anything you feel we should take into account. We are committed to listening carefully and ensuring that all feedback is properly considered before any decisions are made.

What happens next?

Once the consultation period has ended, governors, school leaders and the Trust will review all responses in detail.

The priority will be to ensure that all perspectives are understood and that any decision taken reflects the needs of the children and community we serve, both now and in the future.

If we decide to move forward, there is a clear and established process to formalise the change with the Local Authority and the Department for Education.

In summary

- The school has been provisionally selected by DfE for a significant rebuilding opportunity
- The infant and junior schools are already working closely together, with clear benefits
- We are consulting on a proposal to formally become one primary school from Nursery to Year 6

- We believe this could strengthen education, improve continuity, reduce costs and staff workload, and simplify things for families
- No decision has been made, and your views are an important part of this process

A full copy of the business case to become a single primary school can be found online here:

<https://www.minsterschools.co.uk/consultation/>

Copies are also available from the school office. Should you require any of these documents in another format or language, please let us know and we will gladly accommodate.

You can complete the short consultation survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H6HB5WQ>

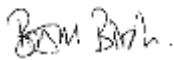
This consultation will remain open until 13th July 2026. We will then write to you again to share a summary of the feedback received and outline our next steps. Any questions you may have can be emailed to: office@minsterschools.co.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for sharing your views. We value your input as an important part of shaping the future of the school.

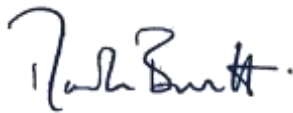
Yours sincerely,



Ali Silke
Headteacher



Brian Birch
Chair of Governors



Mark Burnett
Chief Executive