

HAVE YOUR SAY

bit.ly/hackney-schools-consultation1

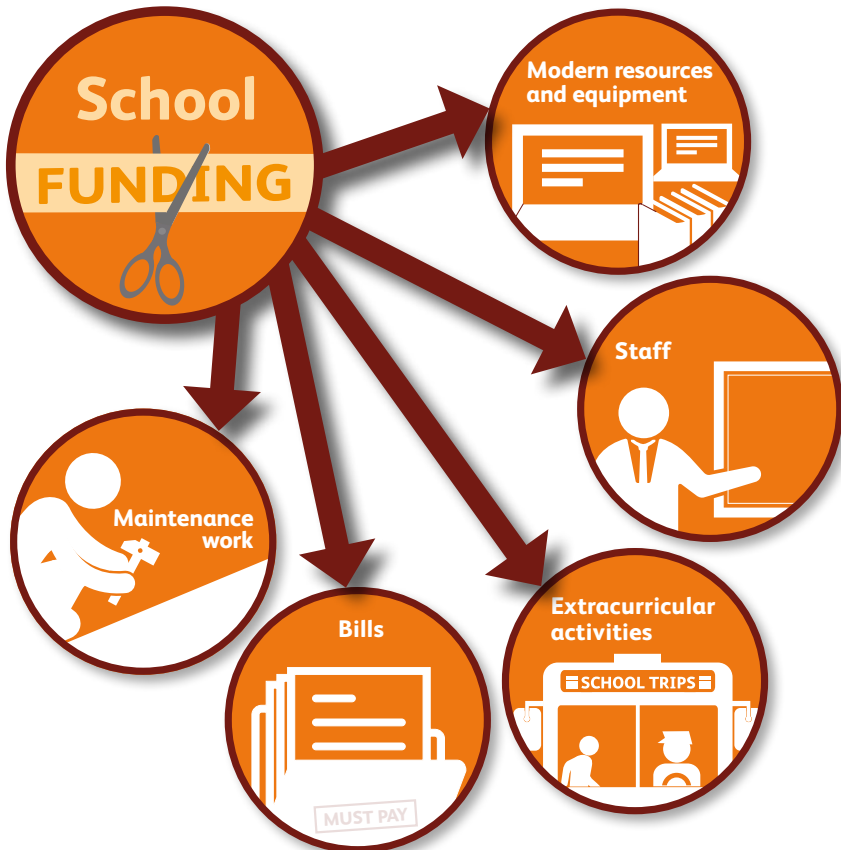


**Responding to the decrease in the number
of primary school-aged children in Hackney**

What is happening

In the last few years, there aren't as many school aged children in London. There are fewer children being born, some families have moved elsewhere due to the pandemic, Brexit, or because they can no longer afford to live in London, and in some areas there is also competition from free schools. This means there are fewer children in primary schools.

Schools receive money from the government for each child who attends the school. Fewer pupils means schools have less money to spend on the things they need.



What is happening in Hackney?

Since 2014, the number of primary school children has decreased in the majority of London boroughs. This trend is likely to continue for future years.

None of this is the fault of any of our schools.

This school year alone, over 20 % of the reception places remained empty.

Our vision


In the last 20 years, the schools in Hackney have improved a lot, and they are now among the very best in the country.


The Council has to make sure that schools can continue to offer great education for our children, giving them access to the best possible opportunities.


The Council must respond to the fall in numbers, even if that means considering difficult decisions.

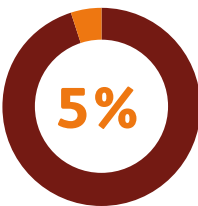
A school with less money than it needs will almost always see results and standards fall.


SNAPSHOT 2022-2023

58  number of primary schools in Hackney

2,900  overall number of reception places in Hackney (the equivalent of 97 classes)

634  vacant reception places in 2022/23 (21 classes)

5%  healthy reception vacancy rate

20%  current reception vacancy rate across Hackney primary schools

£6,484  the amount each primary school in Hackney loses for each vacant place

£4.11m: the amount of money missing from school budgets in Hackney because of vacant reception places

More than **£30m:** money that the 58 primary schools in Hackney are missing out this year alone, compared to what they would receive if all classrooms were full

Our strategy

Schools and the Council have been doing everything possible to solve the problem:

- looking for more money;
- managing vacant places;
- working with other government bodies to find solutions.

However, this is not enough for some schools that already have lower funds than they need.

We are now looking at which schools are most affected, and working with them to find a solution.

We will not be making any changes before consulting with all those directly impacted.

There are 58 primary schools in the borough, and the Council is now considering closing two schools and merging four other schools into two.

No changes would happen before September 2024.

Did you know...?

A merger (also known as amalgamation) brings together two or more schools to form one school - on one site and under a single leadership.

Benefits of merging schools:

- wider specialist teaching team
- more money available
- more resources
- more likely school improvements

We know schools have very close ties to their local area and communities, that's why proposing closing and merging schools is one of the most difficult decisions we can make, and not one we would ever consider if we had another choice. But the quality of education for our children, and stability for our teachers and support staff must take priority.

What will happen next?

If a school closes, all children attending it will be offered a place in another school nearby.

We will work closely with families to help them prepare to move to a new school, and we will make sure that more support is in place for children that may need it.

If a school merges with another, children from the school affected will be transferred to the merged school if that's what the families want.

The schools proposed to be closed in September 2024 are De Beauvoir Primary School and Randal Cremer Primary School.

The schools that we propose to merge in September 2024 are:

- Colvestone Primary School to merge with Princess May Primary School, onto the Princess May site;
- Baden Powell Primary School to merge with Nightingale Primary School, onto the Nightingale site.

In September-October 2023, the Cabinet will decide whether to progress to formal consultation.

A final decision to proceed or not will be made in December 2023.

Have your say

Parents and carers of children at schools included in the proposals received information packs from their school in March 2023, and meetings were organised with the Council staff in April. In May, Hackney Council's Cabinet decided to begin informal consultation on the proposed changes.

If you are directly affected by the proposal, the school will be in touch with further information. You can also find out more about the project on our website, at **bit.ly/school-proposals1**

Do you want to tell us what you think of the proposals? Fill in the online form between **5 June** and **16 July**, at



bit.ly/hackney-schools-consultation1

or visit **consultation.hackney.gov.uk/**

Your views will be taken into account at the next Cabinet meeting in September/October 2023.



If you have any further questions please email **school.sufficiency@hackney.gov.uk**

