

HAVE YOUR SAY

bit.ly/school-proposal-consultation

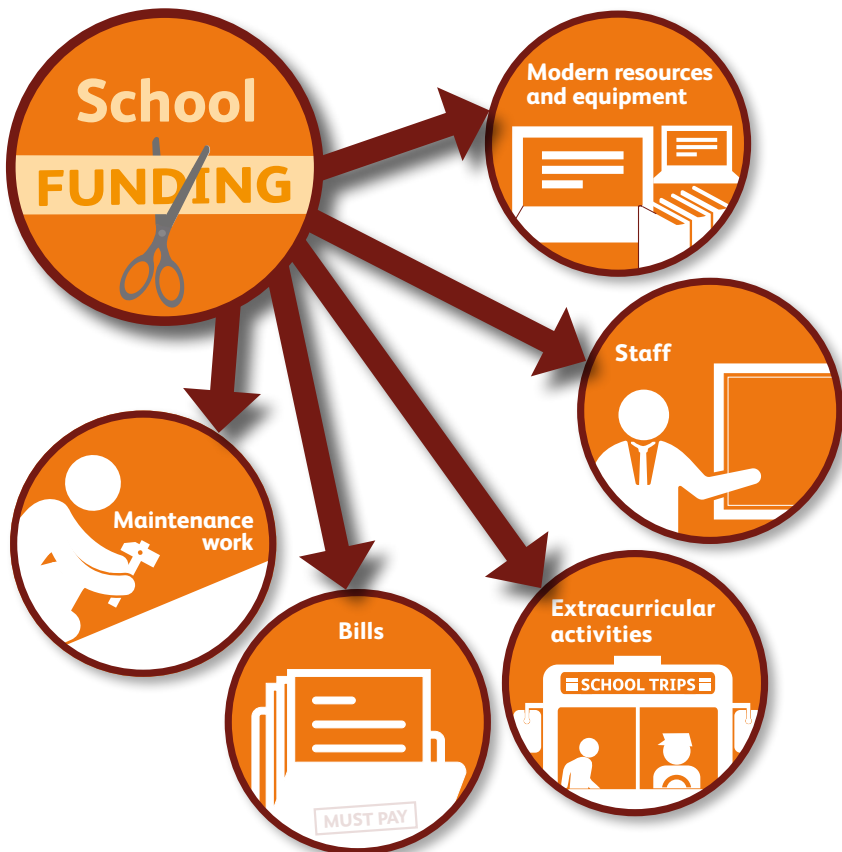


Proposed changes to Hackney primary schools - Autumn 2024

What is happening

There aren't as many school aged children in London or Hackney as there used to be. Fewer children are being born, and some families have moved elsewhere due to the pandemic, Brexit, or because they can no longer afford to live in London. 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?

The number of primary school children in Hackney has been falling. In May 2024, over 21 percent of the reception places in the borough were empty.

Hackney Council permanently closed four primary schools in August 2024 in response to this problem. Some schools have also reduced their number of reception places and their staff. But there are still not enough pupils and money coming in.

Our vision

Hackney primary schools are among the very best in the country, and recognised for their great performance. None of what is happening is the schools' fault.


The Council has to make sure that schools can continue to offer great education and support for all our children. That means considering difficult decisions about how schools are organised to make them strong into the future, and able to respond to the fall in pupil numbers.

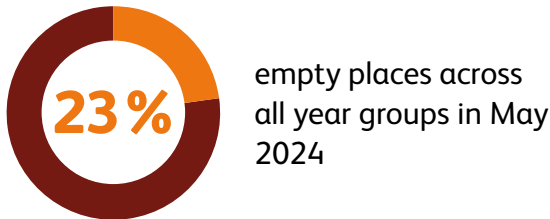
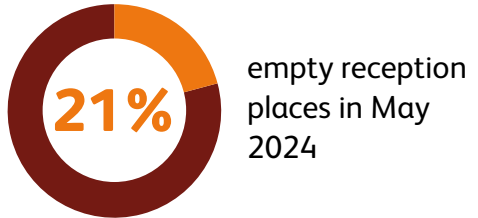
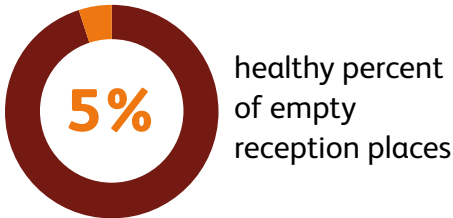
A school without enough money can struggle to offer the best possible education for its children, and to meet the needs of those most vulnerable.

SNAPSHOT - HACKNEY 2024

54  primary schools

2,780  reception places in Hackney in 2023/2024

577  empty reception places in May 2024



More than **£28.5m:** money that the primary schools in Hackney are missing out this year alone, compared to what they would receive if all classrooms were full

Our strategy

While our schools are recognised for their great results, many schools have already told us that empty places and increased costs are making it difficult for them to continue to fully support their pupils, especially those with the greatest needs.

The Council cannot continue to pay for schools that do not have enough children or the funds that they need.

The Council has been looking at which schools are most affected, and working with them and other schools in the area to find solutions.

Any changes would only be made after consulting with all those directly impacted.

We know that our schools have very close ties to the local area and communities, sometimes over many generations. Proposing to close or merge some schools is not something we would choose if we felt there was a better option.

There are now 54 primary schools in the borough, and the Council is considering possible changes that would affect up to six of them.

No changes would happen before September 2025.

Did you know...?

A merger (also known as amalgamation) brings together the pupils at two schools in one school - on one site and under a single leadership. We would do this by closing one school and making sure the other school has enough places for the pupils from both schools.

Benefits of merging schools:

- a stronger, more durable single school
- a wider teaching team
- more money available
- more resources for services like breakfast and afterschool clubs

What will happen next?

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

If two schools merge, children from the closing school will move to the other school if that's what the families want.

We will work closely with families to help them prepare for the possible changes, and we will make sure that support is in place for children that may need it.

What are the proposed changes?

The proposed changes are:

- The closure of St Mary’s Church of England Primary School;
- The closure of St Dominic’s Catholic Primary School;
- Two options of changes that would affect Sir Thomas Abney Primary School:
 1. A merger with nearby Holmleigh Primary School. In this case Sir Thomas Abney would close, and its pupils would be offered a place at Holmleigh. Holmleigh would expand from one to two classes per year group and would move to the current site of Sir Thomas AbneyOR
 2. Closure of Sir Thomas Abney Primary School.
- Two options of changes that would affect Oldhill Primary School:
 1. A merger with nearby Harrington Hill Primary School. In this case Oldhill would close, and its pupils would be offered a place at Harrington Hill. Harrington Hill would expand from one to two classes per year group and would operate on the current site of Harrington HillOR
 2. Closure of Oldhill Primary School.

If agreed, the proposed changes will take effect on 31 August 2025.

Have your say

Parents and carers of children at schools included in the proposals received information packs from their school in **September 2024**.

Meetings will take place in the next weeks at each of the schools included in the proposals.

If you are directly affected by the proposals, the school will be in touch with more information. You can also find out more about the proposals on our website, at **bit.ly/school-proposals-2024**.

Do you want to tell us what you think? Share your views before Tuesday, **19 November 2024 at 5pm**,



at **bit.ly/school-proposal-consultation**
or visit **consultation.hackney.gov.uk**

The Council's Cabinet will look at options and the responses to this consultation before deciding what to do in **January 2025**.

A final decision to move forward or not will be made in **April 2025**.



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

