

Hackney Education

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To all Maintained Schools and Academies
Parents and Carers

31 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,


As we near the end of this Spring term in schools, we wish you and your child well for the coming holiday and then for the Summer term.

We know and understand that many of you will have been deeply distressed by the treatment child Q endured at her school and we share your distress. We understand that some of you are feeling anxious about the safety of your child following the news around the Child Q incident. We also know that the incident raised worries for some parents/carers and children about racism.

We write to tell you of our shared commitment to take forward the safety of children and an anti-racist approach, the entire school community in Hackney has been rocked by child Q's experience and there is real commitment to make sure that never happens again.

We want to let you know that some actions were taken very quickly after the incident occurred at the school concerned so that such an incident could not be repeated. The police also updated guidance very quickly so that such an incident could not be repeated.

Following the release of the public report earlier this month we have taken the following actions:

- Issued local guidance about searching pupils on school sites (pre-empting the updated national guidance due out)
 - Issued guidance for schools about talking with children and parents about the issues raised
 - Provided support for young people via Young Hackney and our Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools (WAMHS) project and other routes.
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If you have concerns about your child's worries related to the Child Q report, we would urge you to speak to pastoral staff in school in the first instance and they can direct you and your child to the right support.

Headteachers, at their recent conference, affirmed their commitment to continuing to move forward with our shared safeguarding and anti-racist agenda. You can read their statement [here](#). There has been and is some great work happening across Hackney in every school to take this forward. We need to ensure that our black and global majority children, parents and carers, staff and governors are fully involved in feeding back to us about this work. We recognise we have more to do and we will not stop.

Schools and school staff work hard to make sure that every child thrives. You will see this day in and day out. Schools do have clear reporting lines where there are concerns and we will continue to focus on all schools having a safeguarding first approach with every child.

We look forward to hearing your voices and working with you over the coming week, months and years in continuing the journey of improvement of provision and opportunity for all Hackney children.

We hope the summer term goes very well for you and your children.

With best wishes,



Annie Gammon
Director of Education



Jacquie Burke
Group Director, Children and Education