

Title of Motion	Ending School Exclusions and Preventing Harmful Outcomes
Political Group	Green Group and Hackney Independent Socialist Group
Proposer and Seconder	Proposer: Cllr Binnie-Lubbock Seconder: Cllr Turbet-Delof
For Consideration by	Full Council
Date of Meeting	28 January 2026

Motion

1.1 The following joint motion has been submitted by the Green Group and Hackney Independent Socialist Group. The proposer is Councillor Binnie-Lubbock and the seconder is Councillor Turbet-Delof.

Hackney Council notes:

1. Hackney Council's adoption of the *No Need to Exclude* guidance (2015), Hackney's commitment as a signatory to the London Inclusion Charter, and Council motion *Mental Health: A Human Right for All* adopted in September 2023.(1-3)
2. The Deputation to Council on 24 July 2024, which raised concerns that *No Need to Exclude* guidance was not consistently followed, questioned oversight, and highlighted evidence of exclusion-to-prison pipeline affecting Hackney children. (4)
3. Hackney has the highest rates of permanent exclusions in London and second highest suspensions. Suspensions rose from 2,775 to 3,207 and permanent exclusions increased from 33 to 52 between 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. (5-7)
4. Exclusions and disciplinary sanctions disproportionately affect Black and Global Majority pupils and intersect with unmet SEND, safeguarding vulnerability, and involvement with social care and Youth Justice services.(8)
5. Recent safeguarding practice reviews, including the Mossbourne review, highlight harm caused by punitive disciplinary cultures, particularly for pupils with SEND and those from ethnically minoritised backgrounds. (9)



The Council recognises:

6. That exclusions, suspensions and managed moves engage safeguarding, SEND and equality duties, and children can become invisible through Children Missing Education, off-rolling, informal exclusions and unmanaged managed moves.
7. The Council's statutory duties under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to secure suitable education for children who are out of school, aligned to their age, ability, aptitude, SEND and best interests, and its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 Equality Act 2010) to prevent foreseeable harm and discrimination.

Hackney Council resolves to:

8. *Work with headteachers, governing bodies and academy trusts across Hackney, including through existing service-level agreements and partnership arrangements, to ensure behaviour policies comply with current DfE guidance, safeguarding requirements, SEND legislation, the Public Sector Equality Duty and anti-racist principles, ensuring exclusion is always a genuine last resort.*
9. *Ensure no pupil with identified or suspected SEND is excluded unless statutory SEND duties, reasonable adjustments and early intervention have been demonstrably met and evidenced.*
10. *Continue to implement the recommendations of the 2021 Children and Young People's Scrutiny review (10) and any further recommendations arising from scrutiny of school behaviour and exclusion practice.*
11. *Promote trauma-informed, culturally competent and anti-racist practice across Hackney schools, informed by local data on disproportionality in exclusions and disciplinary sanctions.*
12. *Strengthen wrap-around, family-friendly support to prevent exclusions, including accessible communication and early access to independent legal advocacy where exclusion or managed move is being considered.*
13. *Ensure all managed moves are overseen by the Local Authority, with a timely, child-centred handover between schools, involving families and relevant professionals, and full sharing of safeguarding and SEND information.*
14. *Improve transparency by requiring early escalation of suspected off-rolling, and publishing validated exclusions data to identify trends.*
15. *Develop an inclusion panel with oversight from the Director of Education to review potential or actual exclusions promptly and prevent exclusion wherever possible.*

16. Continue to advocate nationally for a fully inclusive education system and oppose policies that weaken local authority accountability for inclusion, safeguarding and SEND provision.

References

- 1) <https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/system/files?file=extranet/No%20Need%20to%20Exclude.pdf>
- 2) <https://www.london.gov.uk/media-centre/mayors-press-release/mayor-launches-londons-inclusion-charter-the-first-city-wide-of-its-type-to-help-tackle-rising-suspensions-and-thousands-of-children-losing-out-on-learning>
- 3) <https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=42941>
- 4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XALu24KsH6k>
- 5) <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/suspensions-and-permanent-exclusions-in-england/2023-24>
- 6) <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/suspensions-and-permanent-exclusions-in-england>
- 7) <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/suspensions-and-permanent-exclusions-in-england>
- 8) <https://cityhackneyhealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Hackney-and-City-Health-Needs-Assessment-for-Children-and-Young-People-with-Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disabilities-1.pdf>
- 9) <https://chscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/MVPA-LCSPR-Report-Published-.pdf>
- 10) <https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s73176/Item%206a%20-%20Outcome%20from%20School%20Exclusions%20Report.pdf>

Proposed Amendments

2.1 Amendments to the motion were submitted by the Labour Group in accordance with Part 4A Paragraph 17.8 of the Council's Constitution. The amendments to the motion are attached at agenda item 14a. These amendments were not accepted by the proposer and the seconder before publication of this motion.

Comments from the Group Director for Group Director Children and Education

- 3.1. The Hackney Education Three Year Strategic plan has recently been approved by Cabinet. This was produced following extensive early engagement with a range of stakeholders including families. A further round of consultation has ensured the plan reflects the needs of the community. It is based on three commitments: anti-racism, working in partnership with parents and carers and health and wellbeing of children. It outlines a clear plan to reduce school exclusions.
- 3.2. It is not within the powers of an Local Authority (LA) to prevent any child from being excluded from an education setting, should they have SEND or otherwise. However, the LA is committed to ensuring our schools, children and families have access to high quality support to remove any barriers to education which might result in loss of learning (such as exclusions) at an early stage. This is a key part of the HEALs plan (Hackney Education Alternative Learning Service) which is a key priority in the Hackney Education 3 Year Strategic Plan which was approved by Cabinet in December so has just been launched. The LA is committed to influencing and supporting the system at all levels using training and data to promote a commitment to equitable practice and inclusion at the heart of our local education system.
- 3.3. The LAs role is to signpost to legal advocacy (and not provide this. However, through our work on HEALs, Hackney Education is working to develop a broader advocacy offer for families.

- 3.4 The LA could only introduce a central register of managed moves with the consent of all schools including academies.
- 3.5 The development of an inclusion panel in a key part of the HEALS plan. It will be under the auspices of the Director of Education and Inclusion and will support all children experiencing barriers to education and/or lost learning. It will go further than what is mentioned above and will be (at its heart) multidisciplinary to include Health, Children Social Care, Young Hackney, SEND, and HEALS which will look to work in a child centred way and bring together our shared commitment and associated resources, to ensure all children belong in their school setting.

Group Director of Implications prepared by Jason Marantz, Director of Education and Inclusion
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Date: 9 January 2026

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The primary source of funding for school exclusion costs is the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Within the DSG, the High Needs block is utilised to cover costs related to pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Schools contribute to exclusion costs using the funding they receive through the DSG Schools Block and the General Fund (GF) provides the budget for staffing costs for the Attendance Service.
- 4.2 Any proposed changes to financial resources resulting from the adoption of the motions in this report must be implemented through the established governance processes. This includes the development of detailed business cases that outline any associated financial implications. Consequently, schools will be responsible for managing the financial impact of these changes within their existing core DSG budgets.

Financial Implications prepared on behalf of the Group Director, Finance & Resources by Sajeed Patni, Assistant Director of Finance (Children & Education)
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Date: 5 January 2026

Policy and Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) Implications

- 5.1 Reducing or eliminating permanent exclusions and reducing disproportionality in young people receiving these would have a positive impact on equality in relation to ethnicity, disability and age and are consistent with the Council's policy objectives.
- 5.2 The policy recommendations in the motion focus on how to achieve those goals. The Equality Impact Assessments produced to support the Education



Strategic Plan 2026 to 2029 and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion 3 year strategy which were agreed by Cabinet in December provide further detail on the groups impacted.

Policy and PSED Implications prepared by Kieran Read, Director, Corporate Strategy & Transformation

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Date: 9 January 2026

Legal Implications

6.1 Section 4.2 of the Council's constitution gives Full Council the authority to agree the strategic direction of the Council. Any motion which aims to reduce any disproportionate exclusion of disabled pupils, pupils with SEND and Black and Global Majority would comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the Local Authorities s 149 Public Sector Equality Duty.

Legal implications prepared on behalf of the Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services by Juliet Babb, Assistant Director Legal and Governance

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Date: 12 January 2026