

From: Annie Gammon [<mailto:annie.gammon@hackney.gov.uk>]

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To: Headteachers - Primary <headteachers-primary@hackney.gov.uk>; Headteachers - Secondary & Academy <headteachers-secondaryacademy@hackney.gov.uk>; Headteachers - Special <headteachers-special@hackney.gov.uk>; Headteachers - Colleges <colleges@hackney.gov.uk>; Headteachers - PRU <headteacherspru@hackney.gov.uk>

Subject: Hackney schools being open

Dear colleagues,

The important work of educating our children is again at the forefront of national news. In the light of this I am sending you a statement re the current position in Hackney.

Schools being open - 15th December 2020

Schools, colleges and nurseries have been open all this term with education for the great majority of children unaffected by Covid and self-isolation. However, there was a sharp rise in the number of cases in educational settings over the last week. Consequently, a larger number of schools have now sent bubbles home to self-isolate, with their learning continuing at home.

The Department of Education and public health stance is currently to keep schools open, if at all possible, as it is in the best interest of the children and their education. Where this is not possible then the school can revert to distance learning.

All Hackney schools have been open over the last four months; currently only four settings and schools are closed. The closures are as follows: Comet nursery school, Gayhurst school, Berger and Thomas Fairchild (for one day only) school. The rest of schools remain open although they may have some year groups learning at home. There are staffing shortages (as some staff have had to self-isolate) in a number of schools: Headteachers take this into account in deciding if they can run the school fully.

Hackney public health and education are monitoring the situation daily and jointly provide advice for individual schools.

We appreciate all that those working in schools and settings are doing to continue the care and education of their pupils.

You may want to include this information on your website. I appreciate these are times of significant challenge. Please do not hesitate to call your school improvement partner if you need any advice.

With best wishes and thanks,

Annie

Annie Gammon
Director of Education
Tel: 020 8820 7631
Annie.Gammon@hackney.gov.uk

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@HackneyDirofEd

www.education.hackney.gov.uk
www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk