

# SEND and Inclusion 3 Year Strategy - FAQs

- **Why are you creating a new strategy?**

Our current strategy is due to end at the end of 2025, so now is the time to create a new one to replace it. We are building on this strategy and our Hackney Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion 3 Year Strategy sets out our local area vision and priorities for supporting children and young people with SEND and their families.

- **How have you developed this strategy?**

This strategy has been co-produced by children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and practitioners. It draws on the lived experience and knowledge of children and young people with SEND and those who care for them, as well as that of the local authority and NHS services, settings, providers, and voluntary and community organisations who form our local area partnership.

Our co-production cycle has included a series of workshops, discussions, targeted questionnaires, and surveys, carried out between April-October 2025, through a variety of in-person and online formats. Our core stakeholder groups throughout have been children and young people; parents and carers; teachers/ SENCOs/ school governors; and professionals.

Our co-production cycle involves three key phases, with this survey being the third phase.

- **What is new in the strategy compared to the previous one?**

The new strategy will continue to focus on many of the key issues that are in the old one, like delivering outstanding provision and services, responding to needs earlier, joining up our services, and supporting with preparing for adulthood. However, there is a new focus on emotional wellbeing and belonging, addressing issues like bullying, stress, and the need for inclusive community spaces. There is also a stronger emphasis on inclusive environments and mindsets, including the mental health of parents and staff, and the need for better training for the workforce. The new strategy also focuses on being transparent and accountable with a new data driven approach to measuring whether it will deliver what it promises.

- **Who will the new strategy apply to?**

It applies to all children and young people in Hackney identified with a special educational need and/or disability between the ages of 0-25 and have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) or receive SEN Support. It will also help our teams and our partners (such as NHS services, settings, providers, and voluntary and community organisations) deliver better outcomes for our children and young people, and support their parents and carers.

- **How will this affect me/my child?**

This Strategy's vision is for a borough where every child and young person with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is empowered to thrive, achieve their full potential, and live an independent, healthy, and fulfilling life.

To achieve this, we will develop a collaborative, transparent, and equitable system that is driven by the voices of children, young people, and their families. This system will support our schools and settings to identify needs early and provide efficient, sustainable, and high-quality provision, in the right place, at the right time.

- **Will the strategy change the SEND provision in Hackney?**

This strategy does not propose any reductions to SEND provision. In fact, it proposes investment in maintaining a stable, high quality specialist provision landscape that meets the full range of needs of children and young people with SEND, with high standards of quality across all Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs). Hackney plans to develop new specialist provision as part of this work.

- **What is the purpose of this survey?**

We have co-produced this strategy with families, professionals and practitioners over the last 6 months. This survey provides an opportunity to see the proposed strategy and identify any elements that you feel have been missed or which are unclear.

- **How can I share my views?**

You can share your views through this [survey](#). You can also respond by emailing [consultation@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@hackney.gov.uk), dropping your feedback off at the Hackney Service Centre reception, or by requesting a free post return printed version of the survey by emailing [consultation@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@hackney.gov.uk) with the subject heading 'SEND and Inclusion Strategy'.

- **Hackney is asking for views on a wide range of strategies currently. How does this strategy fit with the other strategies?**

The SEND and Inclusion Strategy supports and aligns with the Hackney Education's Strategic Plan 2025-2028. Priority 1 of which is **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion: Ensuring efficient and sustainable SEND provision, early identification of needs, and timely support**. It will also be delivered alongside wider programmes of work such as school organisation plans, the Hackney Education Alternative Learning Service (HEALS), and the City and Hackney Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the City and Hackney Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. These plans will help to ensure that children are able to go to the best types of schools and settings to meet their needs.

- **Some of the strategies that this strategy refers to are not currently finalised, will this strategy change if there are changes to other strategies?**

This strategy has been co-produced and is based on what children and young people with SEND and their families have told us, as well as the views of professionals, practitioners, and school staff who care for them. Even if there are changes in the other strategies and national policies, we will continue to base the SEND and Inclusion strategy on the issues and challenges we have been told to prioritise.

- **What happens next?**

We will consider the comments received from this survey, and review the content of the proposed SEND and Inclusion strategy. We plan to submit the strategy to Cabinet in December, with a view to the strategy being implemented from January 2026.