

Full Statutory Proposal to expand Ickburgh School to provide additional places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

1. Contact details (name and address of the proposer):

Hackney Council
Hackney Service Centre
1 Hillman Street
London
E8 1DY
Tel: 020 8356 3000
Email: schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk

Name, address and category of school to be expanded:

Ickburgh School (special school)
Kenworthy Road
London
E9 5RB
Tel: 020 8806 4638
Email: admin@ickburgh.hackney.sch.uk

2. Implementation

If the proposal is agreed the Council plans to undertake the detailed design and procure a contractor by April 2026. Building works are planned to start in May 2026 with a view to delivering the facilities for the site by September 2027 (subject to further surveys, detailed design, planning and procurement).

Pressure in the construction market and unknowns on the site may create some challenges in achieving this project within the existing budget and expected programme. If the planned timescales are not achievable, the opening of the new provision may need to be reviewed or postponed.

3. Reason for expansion of the school

Our SEND Strategy 2022-2025 identified a requirement to increase local special provision over the next few years, allowing more children and young people to attend schools within their own communities rather than travelling long distances to special schools outside Hackney and Independent placements. The financial benefits associated with this expansion are provided below under 'Project costs and funding'.

4. Objectives

The additional places would allow Hackney families access to the support their child needs closer to home with a reduced home to school travel burden, potentially leading to improved energy levels and attendance, and ultimately better educational outcomes.

We anticipate that by expanding local provision, this proposal significantly increases parental choice, allowing more Hackney families to access the specialised education their children need within their own communities, rather than relying on out-of-borough placements. This not only eases the logistical and emotional burden on families but also ensures that children can remain connected to their local support networks, fostering a more stable and effective learning environment.

We are not proposing any change to the current Ickburgh School site on Kenworthy Road, E9 5RB.

5. Project costs and funding

The funding for refurbishment of and alterations to the former Baden Powell school building will come from the SEN Special Provision Capital Fund. The school will continue to receive its regular place funding. Expanding Ickburgh School to a split site is a strategic investment that will deliver long-term value for money by significantly reducing the reliance on expensive independent placements.

By providing an additional 48 places within one of our existing locally maintained special schools this expansion will decrease the Council's reliance on more expensive out-of-borough or independent school placements and create local employment opportunities. It will also reduce the need for our children to face long-distance travel to out-of-borough provision, which can incur substantial transport costs for the Council.

6. Impact on other educational institutions in the area

Ickburgh School is unique within Hackney, as it is the sole institution providing education for children and young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties, severe autism, and physical disabilities. The proposed expansion of the school is not anticipated to have any adverse effects on other special educational institutions within the borough.

7. Rural primary schools

Not applicable.

8. Balance of denominational provision

Not applicable.

9. Maintained nursery schools

Not applicable.

10. Sixth form provision

Not applicable.

11. Special Educational Needs Provision

Ickburgh School caters for pupils who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) and special educational needs and/or disabilities. It addresses a wide range of needs including profound and multiple learning difficulties and severe autism, as well as needs related to cognition and learning, communication and interaction,

physical and sensory needs, and additional social, emotional, and mental health needs.

The Council understands that a change of circumstances for pupils with SEND can often be challenging and require additional support to ensure a successful transition. Ickburgh School staff, together with officers from the Council's SEND team will work together to support all children at Ickburgh School.

12. Travel

All pupils attending Ickburgh School will be supported by the Council's Home to School Travel Assistance Policy, which outlines eligibility and provisions for school travel. Further information about SEND transport can be found at the Council's Local Offer page:

www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/hackney/localoffer/advice.page?id=XATR8-VsbNE

13. Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by visiting consultation.hackney.gov.uk/children-education/ickburgh-school (scan the QR code below), by emailing: schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk, or by writing to:

School Place Planning Team
Hackney Council
Hackney Service Centre
1 Hillman Street
London
E8 1DY

The closing date for responses to be received is 3 December 2025 at 5pm.





Accessibility statement

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