

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ICKBURGH SCHOOL



Key proposals

- Additional site at Ferron Road, E5 (former Baden Powell Primary School)
- Creating 48 more SEND school places in the borough
- Anticipated to open 2027

WORKING FOR EVERY CHILD

Hackney Council is proposing to expand Ickburgh School by 48 places from 2027, using the former Baden Powell Primary School site, located on Ferron Road, E5. Ickburgh School would continue in its current location on Kenworthy Road E9, with the additional site on Ferron Road allowing capacity to grow to more than 200 places.

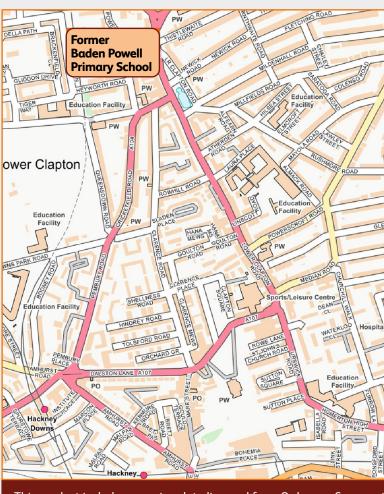
If the expansion goes ahead, work to refurbish and adapt the Ferron Road building is expected to start mid 2026, with the aim of being ready to accommodate pupils from September 2027.

This proposal represents a prescribed alteration in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, specifically regarding the expansion of Ickburgh School to operate across two sites.

Hackney Council is committed to providing excellent education and support for all children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within our community. We want our children to attend schools close to home, rather than having to travel long distances to appropriate schools outside Hackney.

The <u>SEND Strategy 2022-2025</u> identified the need for an increase in our local special provision by at least 150 places to enable more children and young people to go to school locally in their communities. The development of new SEND provision is also a priority in <u>Hackney's</u> <u>Education Sufficiency & Estate Strategy</u> (<u>ESES</u>), which is developing a long-term plan for all education sites in the borough.

Expanding Ickburgh School would involve repurposing the empty school building (formerly Baden Powell Primary School) on Ferron Road. The map shows the location of the additional site, as well as the existing Ickburgh School.



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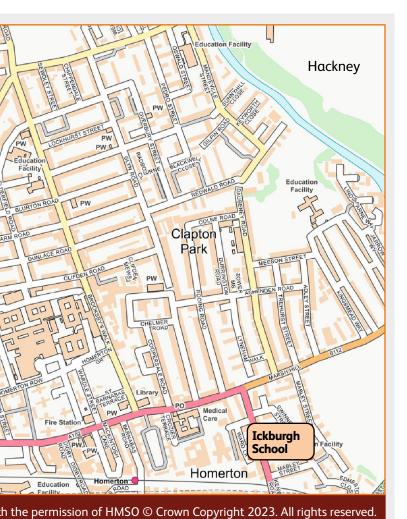
HOW THINGS WOULD OPERATE ACROSS TWO SITES

• How would the two sites operate?

Our priority is to create an excellent and seamless learning environment for every child and young person across both sites. We are actively developing a detailed plan to ensure smooth operations between the current and proposed split site. We will share more information with you in the coming months.

How would facilities be used across the two sites?

We are working to ensure that all children and young people have access to the best possible resources, including playgrounds and other facilities that could be shared. As our plans develop, we will provide more specific details on how we intend to maximise the use of all available resources across both locations to benefit every child's learning and wellbeing.



• How would whole-school activities

be managed?

We would develop plans to ensure that all children and young people feel connected and included at both sites, such as alternating assemblies or arranging travel for shared activities.

How would the new site be used?

No decisions have yet been made about which children or young people would attend the proposed additional site. We will communicate the plans as they are developed.

STAFF & GOVERNANCE

 What governance, leadership and management arrangements will be put in place to oversee the new site?

We are considering the best staffing arrangements for the expanded school, including:

- Appointing a Lead Teacher for the new site.
- Ensuring a seamless working arrangement for staff across both sites.
- Providing induction for new staff members.

The Council and School will continue to work together to refine the details of how this can work best for all.

What would the admission arrangements be?

Admissions to Ickburgh School will continue to be decided by the Council's Education, Health and Care Panel.

IMPACT OF THE INCREASED SIZE OF THE SCHOOL

 Would the increased size of the school affect the individual attention my child receives?

The proposed expansion of Ickburgh would not adversely affect the individualised attention and teaching that children and young people receive, due to their specific and complex needs. All children and young people would continue to receive a high staff-to-pupil ratio, ensuring that their individual learning goals and support requirements are fully met, regardless of the school's size.

 Would this impact existing SEND providers in the borough?

Ickburgh is the only school in Hackney providing education for children and young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties and severe autism. No other SEND schools in Hackney will be adversely affected by the proposed expansion of the school.

• How will this be funded?

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 pupil place funding.



Refurbishment of the Ferron Road site

The existing building dates from 1972 and many parts of the school are in need of complete renewal.

The works would include internal alterations and modifications to meet the needs of the new pupils. The building will also be given new finishes and fittings. The extent of the site will remain the same.

Plans for the building include:

- refurbished classroom spaces
- shared breakout and group areas
- specialist rooms for art and food technology
- new and improved staff and therapy spaces

At the same time, this is an opportunity to update the existing fabric to current environmental standards and to create a sustainable future for the school by:

- improving the insulation of the buildings
- introducing new sustainable heating and lighting
- adding on-site renewable energy in the form of Photovoltaic panels

The main elements of the proposals include:

- Arrival: Expanding the front parking so that pupils can be dropped off inside the school grounds (rather than on the street).
- Entrance: Making a clear and welcoming route to the front entrance doors and expanding the foyer so visitors have a space to sit and wait.
- Courtyard: Reinstating the original courtyard as a green space at the heart of the school.
- Caretakers House Block C: New Food Technology and Training Cafe.
- Insulation: Recladding the fascia and external wall with well insulated construction and installing thermally efficient windows.
- Heating: Replacing most of the boilers with new Air Source Heat Pumps supported by Photovoltaic panels at roof level - providing on site energy.
- Lighting and electrics: New systems throughout using LED Light fittings.
- Finishes and fittings: New floor and ceiling finishes, and new sanitaryware throughout.

Comment on the Statutory Notice

This proposal constitutes a prescribed alteration under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, specifically the expansion of Ickburgh School to operate across a split site.

The Council will therefore publish a Statutory Notice on 6 November; this will be available to read on the Council's website, you will be able to give your views on the notice until 3 December 2025.

Printed copies will also be available from:

- Ickburgh School Office
- Children's Centres



Email: schoolplaceplanning@hackney.gov.uk

Timeline



Now 6 Nov-3 Dec

Publication of the Statutory Notice to repurpose the Ferron Road site.

Representation period - comments can be submitted.

01



Winter 2025

Hackney Council will review the statutory notice and comments received. The decision whether to go ahead with the expansion will be made by Hackney Council in accordance with its statutory duties and governance procedures.



021



2027

Additional Ferron Road site opens.

→ 04

Spring 2026

If agreed, work will begin on refurbishing and adapting the Ferron Road site.

03

NEXT STEPS

The existing site on Kenworthy Road would continue to operate as usual while the additional site is made ready. Hackney Council and Ickburgh School will continue to keep parents, pupils, staff and other stakeholders including Ferron Road residents updated on progress and any changes expected when the school expands to the second site.

Hackney Council and Ickburgh School will continue to work together in developing the details of the day-to-day operations of the expanded school.

If the expansion goes ahead, refurbishment work is expected to start in Spring 2026.



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