

**Philip Glanville, Mayor**  
**Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor**  
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Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

17<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Secretary of State


We are writing to you, as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Hackney, with the support of Headteachers and Governors from across the borough, to express our grave concerns about threats to the funding of schools in Hackney.

The Queen's Speech announced that your Government is planning to proceed with changes to the schools funding formula. Whilst we absolutely appreciate the need to see proper resourcing of schools across the country, the changes that were proposed before the election have caused huge concerns to schools and to parents, carers and learners across Hackney. Your proposals threatened to take more than £25m out of Hackney schools by 2019. This would translate into £914 less per pupil, or 692 fewer teachers across Hackney. The impact on our schools, our children, and their achievements, would be truly devastating.

In what would appear to be a change of heart, the Conservative manifesto stated clearly that no school would face budget cuts as a result of the funding formula change, and indeed during the campaign, the Prime Minister herself stated that 'no school would be worse off.'

We are writing to you to ask for you to formally reiterate that commitment to Hackney schools and parents, and to provide reassurance that school budgets in our borough will be protected. We are asking for your absolute assurance that those pledges made in your manifesto will be honoured, and that no school will be worse off, either in cash or real terms.

Both you and the Prime Minister have expressed a commitment to meritocracy, to social mobility, and to making a first class education available to children from all backgrounds. Your manifesto states that every child should be able to attend a good or outstanding school. In Hackney, that is what we are already achieving.



Over the past 15 years, Hackney schools have been transformed from being the worst in the UK to amongst the very best. Hackney took tough decisions to close failing schools, we were innovative and embraced new models and opportunities, and over the years, we have put a relentless focus on school improvement. Our results are simply outstanding.

Despite rapid social change, Hackney remains one of the most deprived areas of the UK, yet in education terms, our children are outperforming the national average by every measure. Most importantly, that success is not confined to those students from affluent backgrounds. Our children on free school meals are achieving some of the best results in the country for that group, and by some measures are outperforming the national averages for all children.

Ofsted has rated nearly all of our 79 schools as good or outstanding. In 2016-17 to date, 98.6% of our primary students attend a good or outstanding school, and 100% of our secondary students – making us joint 1<sup>st</sup> in the country for secondary education. In 2016, DfE figures showed Hackney as;


- Top in the country for children reaching the expected standard at Key Stage 1 for reading, writing and maths
- Top in the country at Key Stage 2 for writing
- Joint top for GCSE progress

All of this achievement would be severely jeopardised by your pre-election proposals. Schools in London are already struggling under increased cost pressures, and the difficulties of teacher recruitment and retention in a city where affordable homes for those on middle incomes are in very short supply. The freeze in SEND funding since 2011, coupled with the massively increased demand in urban areas is another pressure. Further cuts to budgets would risk Hackney schools becoming unsustainable, and would certainly make it very difficult to maintain current rates of performance and improvement. Given that we provide one of the best education offers in the country, to one of its most deprived populations, this would surely be counter to everything you say you are trying to achieve.

Given our success to date, we would like to think that the Government would wish to learn from Hackney and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, or one of your Ministers, to share with you some of the lessons of that success.

In the meantime, we would welcome an early response to this letter, containing the guarantees we are seeking that Hackney schools will not be worse off as a result of the changes to education funding that your Government is proposing to bring forward.

When we wrote to you on this subject on 17<sup>th</sup> March, we were disappointed to receive a dismissive and generic response from one of your officials. We hope that in this instance you will respond personally, and in a way that acknowledges and responds to the issues and concerns that we are raising with you.

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We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Yours sincerely

**Philip Glanville**  
Mayor of Hackney

**Cllr. Anntoinette Bramble**  
Deputy Mayor of Hackney

Stephen Smith, Headteacher and Andrew Bethell, Chair of Governors - Baden Powell Primary School

Jo Carter, Chair of Governors – Benthall Primary School

Yusuf E. Gleason, Headteacher and John L'Anson, Chair of Governors - Berger Primary School

Paul Brooks, Chair of Governors - Betty Layward Primary

Jane Heffernan, Headteacher and Father David Evans, Chair of Governors - Cardinal Pole catholic School

Richard Brown, Head of Urswick School and Chair of Hackney Schools Forum

Anna Feltham Headteacher and Ben Fowler, Chair of Governors - Clapton Girls' Secondary School

Caroline King, Executive Headteacher – Colvestone Primary School

Lisa Clarke, Head Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre

Gregory Logan Headteacher - Daubeney Primary School

Rebecca MacKenzie, Headteacher - De Beauvoir Primary School

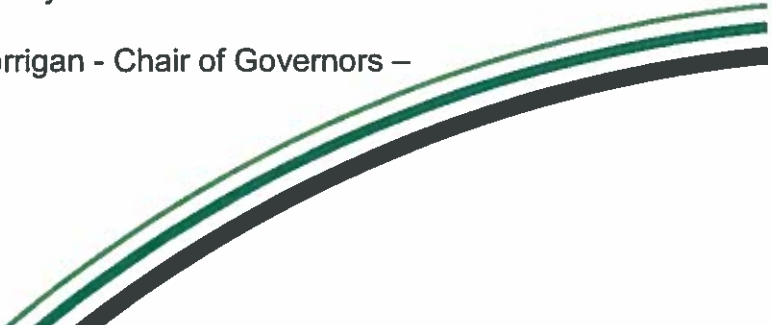
Louise Nichols, Executive Head - Gayhurst, Kingsmead and Mandeville Primary Schools

Sarah Bailey, Executive Head and Rob Miller, Chair of Governors - Grasmere Primary School

Hugo Hitchinson, Headteacher - Hackney New Secondary

Hugo Hitchinson, Chair of Governors - Halley House

Sue Davies, Headteacher and Patrick Corrigan - Chair of Governors – Ickburgh School





Norma Hewins, Headteacher, and Mary Walker and Michael Brown, Joint Chair of Governors - Jubilee Primary School

Jane Betsworth Headteacher, and Damian Chaffer Holt, Chair of Governors - Millfields Primary School

Peter Hughes, CEO, Mossbourne Federation and Sylvie Pierce, Chair MCA

Timothy Jackson, Principal and Maggie Kalnins, Chair of Governors - Mossbourne Parkside Academy

Amy Wood, Principal and Samantha Lloyd, Chair of Governors - Mossbourne Riverside Academy

Nicholas Rutherford, Principal and Robert Feld, Chair of Governors - Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy

Sue Parillion, Headteacher and Steve Belk, Chair of Governors - New Regent's College

Alison Kriel, Headteacher and Ciaran Seymour, Chair of Governors - Northwold Primary School

Sean Flood , Headteacher and Derek Vitali, Chair of Governors - Our Lady & St Joseph's RC Primary

Justine McDonald, Headteacher and Karen Simms, Chair of Governors - Our Lady's Convent High School

Brian Bell, Chair of Governors - Parkwood Primary School

Dorothy Dalton, Chair of Governors - Petchey Academy

Stephen Spooner, Headteacher and Kristofer McGhee, Chair of Governors - Princess May Primary School

Sarah Bailey, Headteahcer - Queensbridge Primary School

Jo Riley, Headteacher - Randal Cremer Primary School

Jim O'Shea, Headteacher - Rushmore Primary School

Penny Smith, Headteacher - Shoreditch Park Primary School

Geraldine Fitzmaurice, Headteacher and Leonie Allister, Chair of Governors - Sir Thomas Abney Primary

Robert Farquharson, Chair of Governors - Skinners' Academy





Deirdre Finan, Headteacher and Eileen Byrant, Chair of Governors - St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

Jane Keeley, Headteacher and Barry O'Brien, Chair of Governors - Haggerston School

Asarena Simon, Headteacher and Alister Bould, Chair of Governors - St John of Jerusalem

Jane O'Brien, Headteacher and Kaite Chubb, Chair of Governors - St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Naomi Mulholland, Headteacher - St Scholastica's Primary School

Annie Gammon, Headteacher and Crispin Truman, Chair of Governors - Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form

Kevin McDonnell, Headteacher and Bernard Hawes, Chair of Governors - Stormont House School

Chris Brown, Principal and Ruwan Weerasekera, Chair of Governors - The Bridge Academy

Kt Khan, Executive Headteacher, Pat Quigley, Head of School and David Lowry, Chair of Governors - The Garden School

Caroline King, Executive Headteacher - Thomas Fairchild Community School

Jackie Benjamin, Headteacher and Chuck Dreyer, Chair of Governors - Tyssen Primary School

Richard Brown, Head and Roger Pryce, Chair of Governors – The Urswick School

Ben Hasan, Headteacher and Sally Lindsay-German, Chair of Governors - Wentworth Children's Centre

Karen Law, Headteacher and Julian Winship, Chair of Governors - William Patten Primary School

Mrs R. Weinberg, Headteacher and Theo Bibleman, Chair of Governors - Yesodey Hatorah Primary and Secondary Schools



