



Good to Great Schools Policy
Appendix 8
Support For Free Schools & Academies

September 2024

Working for every child



Good to Great Schools Policy

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It is the aim of Hackney Education to maintain excellent relationships with Hackney based free schools and academies.

1.1 Access to free services

Free schools and academies will receive the following support without payment:

- a. A named School Improvement Partner who will act as a point of contact for Hackney Education
- b. A two hour documented keeping in touch visit twice a year for primary and secondary schools. This will include discussion of results/achievement, self-evaluation and key local priorities e.g. exclusions.
- c. Access to all of the headteacher meetings and bulletins
- d. Statutory access to all services for children, e.g. SEND service, early years' forum etc.
- e. Access to statutory and advisory bodies, e.g. Schools Forum, Hackney Schools Group Board.

1.2 Access to traded services

Free schools or academies can access other services which will be traded including, but not limited to: involvement in additional support systems, one day reviews, professional development packages, early years' review.

Free schools or academies can buy into the supported schools programmes as a traded service.

1.3 Monitoring visits

Where a free school or academy is experiencing difficulty, Hackney Education will undertake safeguarding monitoring visits in order to ensure the local community is being well served. This will always be aimed to be done in productive liaison with the school leadership.

If there are concerns, and Hackney Education conducts a visit, a report will be written following each visit to the organisation leaders and the Regional Director. Up to three monitoring concern visits will be carried out before escalating into a pre-warning letter copied to the Regional Director.

1.4 Board membership

Hackney Education officers are willing, as with other schools, to be on the Board or governing body of free schools or academies.

Hackney Education officers will also consider joining IEBs, emergency boards or transition boards when schools are in difficulty. However this will be entered into with caution and only with a time limit regarding commitment agreed with the line manager; e.g. two hours per week. This commitment will be considered in the light of the employee's other commitments to governing bodies etc.