



Early Years Sufficiency Report

May 2026

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Executive Summary	2
Funded Early Education Entitlement	3
Supply and Take-Up of Childcare Provision	4
Types of Childcare Available	4
Providers Offering Funded Early Education Places	6
Number of Children Accessing Funded Early Education Entitlement	8
Number of Children Attending Reception Classes	9
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	10
30 hours childcare-working families	11
Number of Children with SEND	12
Quality of Childcare	14
Cost of Childcare	14
Occupancy Rates and Vacancies	16
Occupancy and Vacancy Rates by Neighbourhood	17
Occupancy and Vacancy Rates by Neighbourhood Pairing	18
Future Demand	20
Population Trends	20
Areas of Potential Demand Pressure	20

Introduction

This Childcare Sufficiency Report is an assessment of existing childcare provision in the borough, mapping supply of, demand for and gaps in the childcare market. Hackney Council has a duty to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents'. This report meets this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means there are sufficient places for eligible children to take up their funded early years education entitlement, that families can find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents/carers to make a real choice about work and training. Sufficiency is assessed for different age groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

In this report, we have made an assessment of sufficiency using data about the demand for childcare and the amount of childcare available. We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

This report assesses the sufficiency of childcare in Hackney through a focus on the main themes of: demand for childcare, the supply of childcare places, the quality of care and the cost. Each of these themes is discussed to determine the overall sufficiency of childcare, ensuring families are able to find appropriate childcare to enable them to continue with work and training.

Executive Summary

- Early Years population projections show a continuing gradual reduction in the number of children aged 0–4 over the coming years. If current levels of childcare provision are maintained, overall demand for early years childcare should continue to be met.
- There continues to be a sufficient supply of childcare provision to meet the needs of children requiring funded childcare places
- The rollout of the expanded funded entitlement for children aged nine months and over has been successful with increased number of providers delivering funded places
- The take-up of the universal funded early education for 3 and 4 year olds remains above the Inner London average, though the number of eligible children accessing their entitlement has slightly decreased in percentage terms as the total eligible cohort has grown
- The total number of early years childcare providers remains broadly stable. There has been a notable increase in the number of childminders and PVI providers offering funded places for under twos, reflecting the expanded entitlement.
- Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) continues to be available throughout Hackney.
- Hackney continues to offer a broad range of childcare options to suit parental preference and the needs of individual families
- The average weekly cost of childcare has continued to rise. Costs in the Private and voluntary sector remain lower than the average in London
- There has been an increase in childminders serving the Charedi community.

Funded Early Education Entitlement

The funded early education entitlement has expanded significantly since the previous full sufficiency report in 2024. The full rollout of the expanded offer, which began in April 2024, is now complete.

The entitlement in England comprises of:

Working Parents Entitlement

Child's Age: From the term after they turn 9 months until 5 years (compulsory school age)

Number of funded hours: 30 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year for children aged 9 months to 2 years old; 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year for 3 and 4 year olds.

Eligibility: Based on parental income

Early learning for 2 year olds (Families receiving additional support)

Child's Age: From the term after they turn 2 years old

Number of funded hours: 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year

Eligibility: For families in receipt of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

2-year-olds can also get funded childcare if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

No income thresholds apply.

Universal Entitlement

Child's age: All 3 and 4-year-olds

Number of funded hours: 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year

Eligibility: All 3 and 4-year olds are entitled to this offer irrespective of income levels, benefit stats or family circumstances.

Supply and Take-Up of Childcare Provision (as of May 2026)

Types of Childcare Available

The different types of childcare available in Hackney are:

Childminders (OFSTED registered and Agency registered)

Registered professionals who look after children in their own homes. They offer a flexible service, caring for children aged from birth to sixteen years. They are only allowed to look after up to six children between the ages of birth to eight (including their own), but can care for more children if they work in partnership with other childminders or assistants.

Childminders can register directly with OFSTED resulting in OFSTED inspecting them regularly. Alternatively, childminders can register with a DfE approved Childminder Agency (CMA). In this case, OFSTED inspects the CMAs to make sure they are complying with the regulatory requirements. OFSTED does not inspect their individual childminders, that is down to the agencies themselves, who quality assure their registered providers every year.

Private and Voluntary Providers

These settings care for children aged from birth to five years and usually offer day care from 8am to 6pm for most of the year. All day nurseries are registered with Ofsted and inspected regularly. They can be run by private individuals, community groups, Montessori organisations, commercial businesses or by employers. Private or Voluntary Nurseries include Children's Centres and Playgroups. **Playgroups** provide care for children either as a morning or afternoon session or as extended sessions including lunch. They are often run by voluntary groups but can also be run by private individuals. They care for children aged from two to five years and are usually only open during term time. They differ from day nurseries in that they only admit children from the age of two years old and usually open between 9am to 3.30pm. They are also registered and inspected by Ofsted.

Independent Schools

These are owned privately or by community organisations and cater for children aged from three to sixteen, with some taking children from two years old. If the school participates in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, it must comply with the Statutory Framework and will be inspected by Ofsted. The vast majority of Independent school provision in Hackney serves the Orthodox Jewish (Charedi) community in the North of the borough in the wards of Cazenove, Springfield, Woodberry Down and Stamford Hill West.

Nursery Classes in Maintained Schools

These are schools that offer full and part-time early years education places, typically between school hours and during term time only. They are attached to primary schools. In addition to offering places in nursery classes for children from the age of three, a number of Hackney maintained schools also offer places for younger children. (School-based Nurseries)

Maintained Nursery Schools

There are also two standalone Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) that specialise in nursery education for children from two years old.

In total there are 287 Early Years childcare providers in Hackney in the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector.

Table 1: Total number of Private, Independent and Voluntary providers in Hackney

Private, Voluntary, Independent Providers	2022	2024	2026
All Providers	293	277	287
Childminders	163	148	161
Private and Voluntary Providers	108	110	101
Independent Schools	21	21	25*

*includes 1 Special needs school

In the academic year 2024/25, 8 Private and Voluntary providers closed with 2 of these registering elsewhere in the borough. Reasons cited included increased overhead costs, retirement and competition in the area.

Table 2: Total number of Private, Independent and Voluntary closures in Hackney 2024/25

Neighbourhood	Setting closures
Clissold Park	2
Hackney Downs	2
Hackney Marshes	2
London Fields	5
Shoreditch and City neighbourhood	3
Springfield Park neighbourhood	1
Well Street neighbourhood	2
Woodberry Wetlands neighbourhood	1
Total	18

Table 3: Total number of state funded schools

State funded primary schools	2022	2024	2026
All Providers	58	58	54
Maintained Nursery Schools	2	2	2
Primary Schools with nursery classes	54	54	42

Special schools	2	2	2
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The number of primary schools has reduced as a result of the school closures and school mergers that took place in September 2024. Additionally the number of primary schools with nursery classes has decreased.

These closure and merger plans were a last resort for Hackney and a direct result of the significant decrease in the number of local reception-aged children.

It follows a year-on-year decrease in numbers, a trend being seen in the majority of London boroughs. Factors that account for this decrease include falling birth rates, families relocating outside London (as a result of the pandemic and other factors including housing costs, the return to Europe of families as a result of Brexit). The Greater London Authority (GLA)’s projections available for Hackney indicate the surplus reception places will rise up to 23% in 2025-26, and then slowly decrease and stagnate at 20% until 2031-32.

In autumn 2014, there were only 10 unfilled reception places out of the 2,865 available in Hackney (0.35%). By autumn 2022, this number rose to 634 unfilled reception places out of the 2,900 available in Hackney (21.86%).



<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/school-closures-mergers-2023>

Providers Offering Funded Early Education Places

Providers are not required to offer the funded entitlements; some choose to charge parents the full cost of providing a childcare service. The number of providers offering funded places has changed significantly following the rollout of the expanded entitlement, particularly for younger age groups. The data below is taken from the Spring term for both the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Table 4: Number of providers delivering Free Entitlement places for Three and Four year olds

Provider Type	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
All Providers	203	210	191
Childminders	27	38	39
Independent Schools	20	19	18
Maintained Nursery Schools	2	2	2
Children's Centres	11	12	11
Nurseries in Maintained Schools	55	51	41
Private and Voluntary Providers	90	90	82

Table 5: Number of providers delivering Free Entitlement places for Two year olds

Provider Type	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
All Providers	142	200	230
Childminders	35	66	95
Independent Schools	12	11	14
Maintained Nursery Schools	2	2	2
Children's Centres	12	12	12
Nurseries in Maintained Schools	13	21	23
Private and Voluntary Providers	70	90	86

Table 6: Number of providers delivering Free Entitlement places for under twos

Provider Type	2024/25	2025/26
All Providers	151	216
Childminders	70	120
Independent Schools	2	5
Children's Centres	11	12
Nurseries in Maintained Schools	4	4
Private and Voluntary Providers	64	75

The number of providers offering childcare for under twos has increased, particularly for childminders in response to the funded entitlement for this age range. Previously requirements to have an additional room which is separate from the provision for older children, then need to provide sleeping areas including appropriate sleeping equipment such as cots and bedding and the higher adult/child ratio meant many settings chose not to offer childcare to this age group.

Number of Children Accessing Funded Early Education Entitlement

Table 7: Numbers of three and four year olds in Hackney taking up Entitlement

Three and four year olds	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Eligible	7062	6914	6510	6277	6273	6416	6473	6612
Taking up	6889	7051	7040	6677	6599	6314	6103	6086
Percentage	98%	102%	108%	106%	105%	98%	94%	92%

The percentage take-up of the 3 and 4 year old universal entitlement has declined slightly from 98% in 2023 to 92% in 2025. It is important to note that the total number of eligible children has grown over this period, and the absolute number taking up the entitlement remains high. Hackney's take-up rate continues to compare favourably with statistical neighbours and exceeds the Inner London average.

Note: Percentages above 100% in earlier years reflect children from outside Hackney taking up places in Hackney settings.

Table 8: Percentage take up of three and four year olds in Hackney and Statistical Neighbours

Local Authority	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Croydon</i>	87%	89%	92%	88%	88%	87%	91%	91%
<i>Enfield</i>	90%	87%	91%	90%	91%	90%	87%	83%
<i>Greenwich</i>	92%	94%	96%	93%	92%	91%	87%	85%
<i>Hammersmith and Fulham</i>	92%	91%	97%	92%	87%	78%	76%	76%
<i>Hackney</i>	98%	102%	108%	106%	105%	98%	94%	92%
<i>Haringey</i>	88%	91%	96%	91%	90%	89%	87%	88%
<i>Islington</i>	93%	92%	95%	96%	92%	83%	78%	77%
<i>Lambeth</i>	100%	102%	103%	102%	102%	93%	91%	87%
<i>Lewisham</i>	88%	88%	86%	88%	90%	89%	86%	83%
<i>Southwark</i>	94%	94%	98%	94%	92%	89%	82%	77%
<i>Waltham Forest</i>	90%	91%	91%	87%	89%	88%	86%	84%
<i>Inner London</i>	92%	93%	96%	94%	92%	87%	83%	81%
<i>England</i>	97%	97%	97%	94%	96%	95%	94%	93%

Nationally, in 2025, the estimated percentage of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the universal entitlement fell slightly to the lowest in the series (started 2011). Whilst it has been on a declining trend since the series peak of 97% in 2018, it has remained above 90% throughout the series.

In 2025, both the estimated population of all 3 and 4-year-olds and the number of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for universal entitlement fell to the lowest in the series. This continues the downward trend seen since 2016, observed both nationally and in Hackney following a decline in births in recent years.

Table 9: Numbers of two year olds in Hackney taking up Entitlement

Two year olds	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Eligible	2304	2072	2056	1908	1766	1606	1526	1008
Taking up	1363	1239	1311	1089	1160	1111	1059	618
Percentage	59%	60%	64%	57%	66%	69%	69%	61%

The number of children taking up Early learning for 2 year olds entitlement has continued to fall, from 1,606 in 2023 to 1,008 in 2025. This reduction reflects both changing family circumstances and the introduction of the separate working parents' entitlement, which has altered the composition of the two year old funded cohort.

Hackney are actively promoting the offer of Early learning for 2 year olds (Families receiving additional support) to improve uptake. Eg, Hackney receives a list of potentially eligible parents from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). These parents are contacted via text, calls and emails informing them of the childcare offer. Additionally, Family Information Service (FIS) share information via social media and give impartial advice about all childcare options, via their website, email, phone and in person events across the borough.

We will continue to monitor the take up of this offer and consider additional methods of promotion.

Table 10: Percentage take up of two year olds in Hackney and Statistical Neighbours

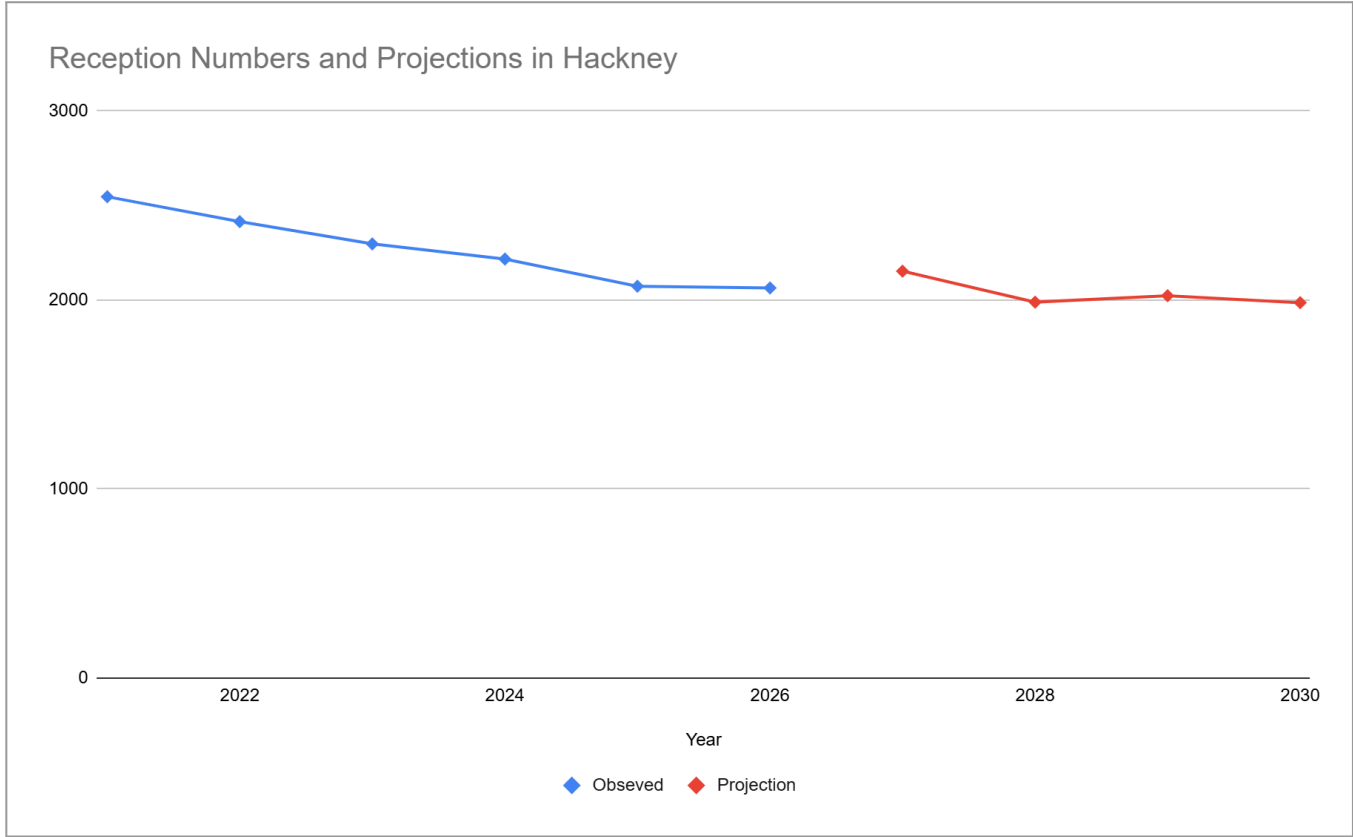
Local Authority	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Croydon</i>	82%	47%	49%	42%	51%	51%	69%	57%
<i>Enfield</i>	54%	50%	53%	49%	59%	59%	67%	64%
<i>Greenwich</i>	56%	58%	60%	50%	62%	62%	68%	61%
<i>Hammersmith and Fulham</i>	85%	50%	52%	45%	55%	55%	48%	46%
<i>Hackney</i>	59%	60%	64%	57%	66%	69%	69%	61%
<i>Haringey</i>	54%	47%	54%	48%	58%	58%	72%	70%
<i>Islington</i>	64%	61%	67%	61%	70%	70%	74%	77%
<i>Lambeth</i>	64%	63%	63%	60%	71%	71%	67%	57%
<i>Lewisham</i>	54%	56%	57%	47%	61%	61%	58%	48%
<i>Southwark</i>	93%	61%	57%	48%	70%	70%	62%	54%
<i>Waltham Forest</i>	48%	47%	50%	44%	61%	61%	63%	53%
<i>Inner London</i>	72%	68%	69%	62%	72%	74%	75%	65%
<i>England</i>	60%	56%	57%	50%	62%	65%	67%	63%

Number of Children Attending Reception Classes

The number of children attending reception classes in maintained schools provides an indicator of demographic trends, although it does not include children attending independent schools or schools outside the borough. Between 2021 and 2026, there has been a sustained reduction in the number of children on roll in reception classes, with numbers falling from 2,546 in 2021 to 2,063 in 2026.

Table 11: Number of children on roll in reception classes in Hackney — observed and projected

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Observed	2,546	2,414	2,296	2,216	2,072	2,063	—	—	—	—
Projection	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,152	1,988	2,022	1,985



Greater London Authority projections indicate that reception numbers will continue to fall before reaching a trough in 2028 and then gradually beginning to recover. This has significant implications for early years provision planning and for the financial sustainability of nursery classes in maintained schools.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Early Years education providers are able to receive up to £570 per year (2025/26 rate) to help with a child's education, provided parents meet certain eligibility criteria.

Eligibility

Children aged 9-months to 4 years old who access any of the funded childcare entitlement

Parent/carer receiving at least one of the following:

- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

Table 12: Number of 3 and 4 year olds in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of children in receipt of EYPP	521	659	522	661	756

Table 13: Percentage of children accessing universal funded entitlements in receipt of EYPP

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
% in receipt of EYPP	9%	11%	9%	11%	14%

The number of children in receipt of EYPP has increased to 756 in 2025, the highest level recorded in the data series. This represents 14% of those accessing universal funded entitlements — a significant increase from 9% in 2023. This may partly reflect efforts by the Local Authority to improve identification and take-up of EYPP by settings, as well as reflecting broader changes in family economic circumstances.

30 hours childcare-working families

Since September 2025, eligible working families can apply for 30 hours childcare the term after their child turns 9 months old. The data below captures take-up of the extended entitlement by 3 and 4 year olds specifically.

Table 14: Number and percentage of 3 and 4 year olds accessing the 30 hours funded childcare for working families

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number accessing 30 hours funded childcare	1,901	2,045	2,104	2,039	2,228	2,521
% accessing 30 hours funded childcare	28%	31%	33%	33%	37%	42%

The take-up of the 30 hours funded entitlement for working families for 3 and 4 year olds has increased substantially, with 42% of all children accessing the universal entitlement now also claiming the extended 30 hours in 2026, up from 33% in 2023. This continued growth reflects increasing awareness among working parents of the entitlement and suggests that a growing proportion of Hackney families have both parents in qualifying employment.

Table 15: Number and percentage of 2 year olds accessing the 30 hours funded childcare for working families

	2025	2026
Number accessing 30 hours funded childcare	865	1485
% accessing 30 hours funded childcare	58%	79%

The take-up of the 30 hours funded childcare for working families of 2 year olds has also increased substantially, with 79% of all children accessing the universal entitlement now also claiming the extended 30 hours in 2026, up from 58% in 2025. This continued growth reflects increasing awareness among working parents of the entitlement and potentially that parents are now returning to work earlier than before.

Number of Children with SEND

The number of children accessing early years provision with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) varies each year. The data below reflects both children with formal EHCPs and those receiving SEN Support.

Table 16: Funded children in early years with SEN Support (2023–2026) (Source: Early Years and School Census)

Year	Number of Children	% of Children
2023	271	4.5%
2024	266	4.5%
2025	305	4.2%
2026	233	2.9%

Table 17: Children in early years with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (2023–2026)

Year	Number of Children	% of Children
2023	107	1.8%
2024	57	1.0%
2025	79	1.1%

2026	92	1.1%
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The percentage of children with EHCPs has stabilised at around 1.1% in 2025 and 2026, following a significant spike in 2021 and a subsequent reduction. This rate remains higher than the national and London averages. The number of children receiving SEN Support shows more variation year on year; the reduction to 2.9% in 2026 may partly reflect changes in recording practice or the impact of the expanded entitlement bringing a larger overall cohort into funded provision.

With the recent Best Start in Life agenda and the SEND reforms the local authority is committed to improve early years support through early identification and intervention.

In September 2025, Hackney's first Early Years Additional Resourced Provision opened at one Comet Nursery School (1 of our 2 Maintained Nursery schools in the borough). It provides 12 full time equivalent spaces for children with complex needs, where they receive specialised support. These needs can be in any of the four areas of SEND.

Section 23 Notifications

A Section 23 notification is a legal duty under the Children and Families Act 2014 requiring health professionals to inform the local council about any child under five who may have special educational needs or a disability.

Year	Number of Children with SEND
2023	280
2024	330

As a result these children were supported by either the [Portage Home Visiting Service](#) or [Early Support Team](#). (NB Portage Team provides home based support to any Hackney family with a child or children aged 0-5 years old not attending a Nursery or School).

Early Years and SEND teams are working closely with NHS colleagues to create a robust system to track that Section 23 notifications trigger timely, joined-up action to ensure every child receives the right support at the right time.

Early Years Inclusion Fund

The Early Years Inclusion Fund is a budget to support children receiving funded entitlement who have emerging needs related to a Special Educational Need and/ or Disability (SEND) and because of this require additional support. Any registered Early Years setting, school or childminder can submit an application to access the additional funding provided. The Inclusion Fund is for those children with emerging SEND but who do not yet have nor need in the future an Education, Health and Care plan.

In the financial year 2024-25 the Early Years Inclusion Fund issued a total of 244 awards.

In the financial year 2025-26 the Early Years Inclusion Fund issued a total of 225 awards.

The reduction in demand is attributed to the opening of an independent Special School.

The primary need for the majority of children requiring this fund is for speech, language, communication and interaction difficulties. Information about services and support are available across early years, education, employment and training, health, leisure and social care can be found on Hackney's Local Offer website here: www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk

Number of Providers with Graduate Staff

There is clear evidence that settings with graduate professionals supporting the learning and development of young people has a positive impact on children's outcomes. It is with this in mind that the hourly rate for providers includes an element within the funding formula that includes a supplement for those settings with a graduate.

Table 18: Percentage of children registered with providers with at least one graduate member of staff

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
England	52%	51%	52%	51%	51%	51%
London	55%	54%	54%	52%	52%	51%
Inner London	61%	61%	59%	57%	57%	59%
Hackney	43%	42%	40%	47%	51%	67%

Quality of Childcare

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders as well as private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, and schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Pre November 2025, Schools with nursery classes have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and most also have a separate early years grade. Some settings are registered with the Independent Schools Inspectorate; these schools are also inspected by Ofsted. Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'Outstanding', 'Good', 'Requires Improvement', and 'Inadequate'. Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection or have re-registered under new owners. These providers are excluded from the tables as they do not have an Ofsted grade.

Table 19: Percentage of Hackney providers judged as Good or Outstanding according to OFSTED

Provider Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
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Childminders	96%	96%	96%	95%	93%	98%
Nursery classes in schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Maintained nursery schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries inc children centres	97%	98%	98%	98%	98%	99%
Independent schools	30%	30%	35%	38%	22%	30%

OFSTED paused inspections between November 2025 and January 2026. Inspections thereafter were carried out using the new OFSTED framework, no longer using one word judgments and moving to scorecards. At the time of writing this report the pool of inspections carried out under the new framework was too small to compare, Hackney are continuing to monitor OFSTED outcomes.

Cost of Childcare

Information about the cost of childcare, outside funded entitlements, is reported to Hackney Education by providers through an annual survey. Information is collected on average prices per hour, per day and per week. Some providers offer reductions for longer hours or discounts for siblings; however, parents may be expected to pay additionally for meals, nappies and activities.

The 2025/26 provider survey collected daily rates from 115 settings across Hackney. Average weekly costs have been calculated by age band (daily rate × 5 days) for both PVI settings and childminders, and combined across all provider types. The tables below present these figures.

Table 20: Average weekly childcare cost by age band — all settings combined (2025/26)

Age Band	Avg Daily Rate (£)	Avg Weekly Rate (£)	Number of Providers
Under 2 (9 months – 23 months)	£85.08	£425.39	91
Age 2	£84.24	£421.19	100
Age 3–4	£83.49	£417.46	115

Table 21: Average price per week for Childminders and Private & Voluntary settings by age group

Private and Voluntary Nurseries	2020	2022	2024	2026
Children aged under two	£297	£323	£354	£428
Children aged two	£283	£302	£318	£417
Children aged 3 and 4	£267	£292	£304	£412
Childminders	2020	2022	2024	2026
Children aged under two	£352	£335	£393	£423
Children aged two	£344	£326	£384	£426

Children aged 3 and 4	£337	£326	£381	£422
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The 2025/26 provider survey shows that the average weekly cost of childcare across all settings in Hackney is £425 for children under 2, £421 for two year olds, and £417 for children aged 3–4. Costs decrease slightly as children get older, consistent with lower staff-to-child ratios required for older age groups. Childminder costs (£423–£426 per week) remain broadly comparable with PVI settings (£412–£428 per week) across all age groups, with childminders marginally more expensive for two year olds and children aged 3–4. These figures represent average rates only; individual settings may charge more or less, and some offer sibling discounts or reduced rates for longer sessions.

The below table shows the Hackney figures converted to "net of entitlement, 50hrs/wk" by taking hourly rate (gross daily rate ÷ 10, assuming a 10-hour day) and multiplying by hours paid for after funded entitlement: Under 2 / Age 2 = 35 hrs (15hrs funded of 50); Age 3–4 = 20 hrs (30hrs funded of 50). This is an estimate based on an assumed hourly rate. The figures for England and London have been provided from the Coram Family and Childcare Childcare Survey 2025¹.

Table 22: Net-of-entitlement weekly cost (50 hours) — PVI/Nursery settings

Private and Voluntary Nurseries	Hackney (est., £/wk)	England (£/wk)	Inner London (£/wk)	Outer London (£/wk)
Under 2	£297.77	£238.95	£319.24	£274.48
Age 2	£294.83	£225.70	£313.42	£266.15
Age 3–4	£166.98	£126.94	£184.96	£159.22

Table 23: Net-of-entitlement weekly cost (50 hours) — Childminders

Childminders	Hackney (est., £/wk)	England (£/wk)	Inner London (£/wk)	Outer London (£/wk)
Under 2	£296.31	£202.09	£288.84	£253.20
Age 2	£298.01	£198.59	£286.22	£251.28
Age 3–4	£168.92	£114.39	£162.44	£153.63

For information regarding the Children Centre's Nursery Fees click [here](#)

Additionally, many families are able to access some funded childcare entitlement which will offset the costs accordingly.

¹ https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Childcare%20Survey%202025_2.pdf

Occupancy Rates and Vacancies

All early years providers were surveyed to establish occupancy and vacancy rates across three broad age groups: children aged nine months to two years, two year olds, and children aged three to five years. Providers were asked to report on the number of children attending and the maximum number of children that could be accommodated.

It should be noted that the tables show occupancy rates only from providers that responded to the survey and it should not be inferred that this rate is common across all providers. It could well be the case that settings with low occupancy rates were more eager to respond than those with higher rates. Note also that not all childminders registered with Ofsted are operating at any given time.

Table 24: Occupancy rates by provider type

Provider Type	Response Rate	9 months to 2 years % Occupied	2 year olds % Occupied	3–5 year olds % Occupied
Childminders	35%	72%	62%	24%
PVI	65%	78%	72%	81%
School	69%	60%	67%	76%

The notably low occupancy rate for childminders in the 3–5 year old age group (24%) warrants further investigation. This may reflect the rapid expansion of childminders into funded provision for younger age groups, leaving limited capacity for older children, or may reflect recording issues in the survey. PVI settings show the most consistent occupancy across all age groups.

Occupancy and Vacancy Rates by Neighbourhood

Table 25: Occupancy rates by neighbourhood across all provider types and age groups

Neighbourhood	Response Rate	9M–2Y % Occupied	2 YO % Occupied	3–5 YO % Occupied
Clissold Park	53%	75%	49%	74%
Hackney Downs	50%	80%	75%	82%
Hackney Marshes	69%	69%	65%	74%
London Fields	62%	62%	67%	70%
Shoreditch and City	63%	75%	75%	77%
Springfield Park	30%	89%	82%	80%
Well Street	57%	78%	89%	78%
Woodberry Wetlands	50%	84%	81%	80%

Springfield Park neighbourhood reports the highest occupancy rates for children under two (89%) and two year olds (82%), alongside the lowest survey response rate (30%). This combination suggests a potential supply pressure in this area, particularly for younger age groups. This is consistent with the pattern identified in the 2024 report, which noted projected shortfalls in the Springfield and Woodberry Down wards. Hackney Education should continue to monitor and respond to demand in the north of the borough, through focused work in recruiting childminders and utilising available government grants.

Clissold Park neighbourhood shows lower two year old occupancy (49%), suggesting sufficient capacity in that area for this age group.

Overall Occupancy rate for all ages under 5 by neighbourhood

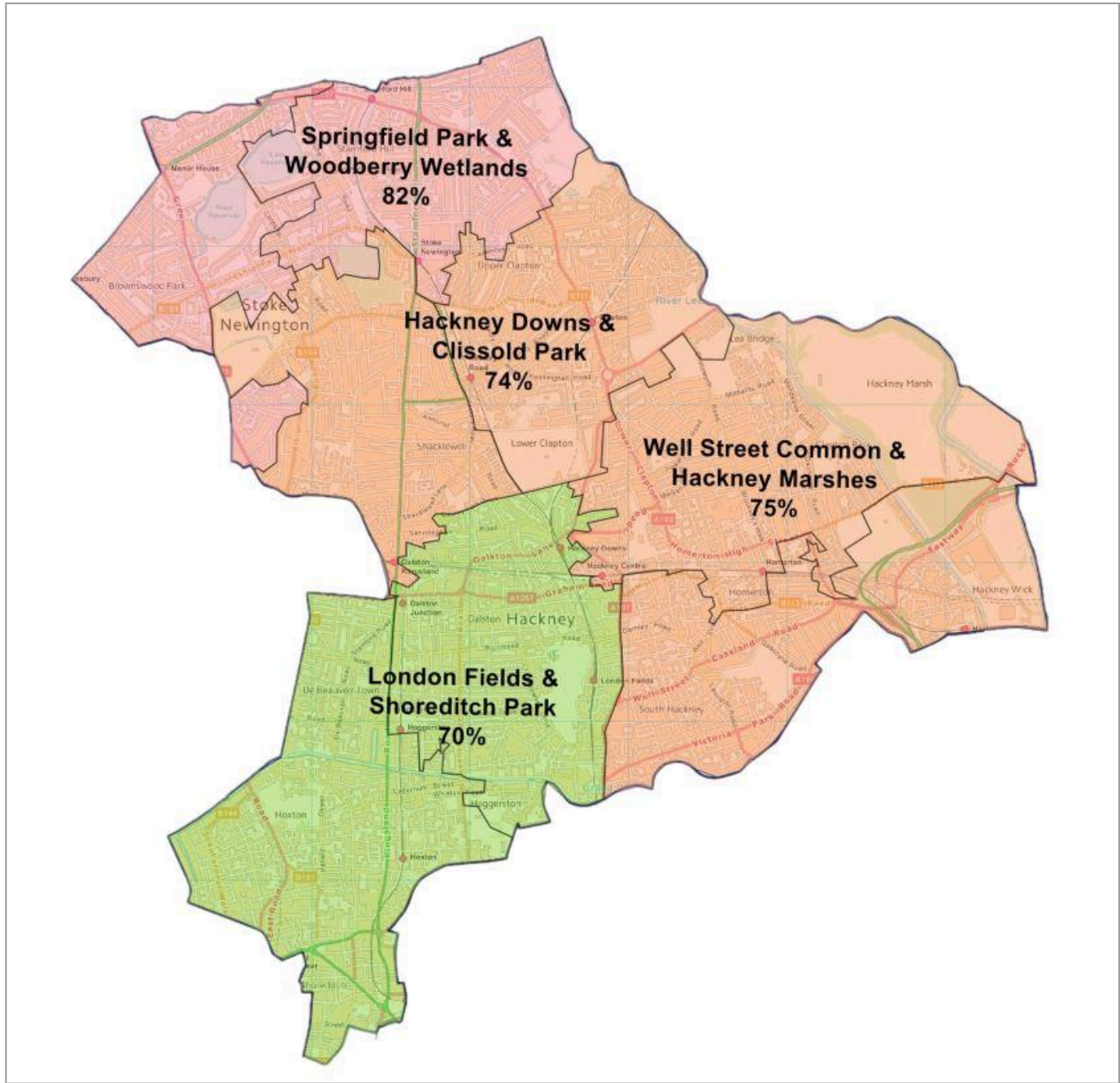


Occupancy and Vacancy Rates by Neighbourhood Pairing

Neighbourhood Pairing	Response Rate	9M to 2Y % Occupied	2YO % Occupied	3-5YO % Occupied
Springfield Park & Woodberry Wetlands	34%	88%	82%	80%
Hackney Downs and Clissold Park	51%	78%	63%	79%

Well Street Common & Hackney Marshes	64%	74%	75%	76%
London Fields & Shoreditch Park	62%	65%	69%	73%

Overall Occupancy rate for all ages under 5 by neighbourhood pairing



Future Demand

The expansion of the free early education entitlement is now fully implemented as of September 2025. All working parents of children aged nine months and above (up to school age) are entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare per week. The focus for future demand planning must now shift to ensuring that the supply of places is sufficient to meet ongoing and growing demand, particularly in areas of the borough where capacity was identified as constrained.

Population Trends

Early years population projections from the Greater London Authority indicate a continuing decline in the number of children aged 0–4 in Hackney over the short to medium term, before numbers stabilise. Reception class data shows observed numbers have fallen from 2,546 in 2021 to 2,063 in 2026, and projections suggest a further decline to a low of approximately 1,988 in 2028 before a modest recovery. This declining birth cohort has implications for the financial sustainability of early years settings, particularly those relying on local authority funding rates which are linked to the number of funded children. It also suggests that, in the medium term, capacity pressures may ease in most parts of the borough.

Areas of Potential Demand Pressure

The 2024 Childcare Sufficiency Report identified three wards in the north of the borough — Woodberry Down, Springfield and Stamford Hill West — where shortfalls in childcare places were anticipated under the expanded entitlement. The 2026 occupancy data suggests that Springfield Park neighbourhood continues to experience higher occupancy rates, particularly for children under two and two year olds, consistent with ongoing demand pressure in this area.

Hackney Education will continue to monitor demand and supply across all neighbourhoods and work with providers to ensure places are available where they are most needed, including through targeted recruitment and support of childminders.

Wrap-Around Provision Schools

In 2023 the previous government and the DfE launched a funded programme to expand the provision of Wraparound Care nationally. This was defined as care provided during school term, directly before and after the school day, typically running from 8am to 6pm, for primary school aged children. For local authorities, 'expansion' was deemed to be the creation of entirely new provision, increasing the number of places available to parents, or the extension of existing provision to provide childcare for longer each day.

Since the beginning of the programme, over 1000 Wraparound Care places (before and after school) have been created. According to an analysis conducted at the beginning of the programme, only 743 places were originally on offer across Hackney. The places added therefore represents an over 34% increase from the beginning of the programme. Feedback from the organisation which supports the roll out of Wraparound Care, Childcare Works is that Hackney has created many more places than most other local authorities and have surpassed the majority of other Local Authorities in terms of overall percentage of places delivered against our target.

The average cost of breakfast clubs in Hackney's Wraparound Care settings is £2.50 per day. The average cost of after school provision is £9 per day.

The new government's Free Breakfast Club scheme will ensure that every primary school in Hackney will offer free breakfast clubs during term time for Hackney's pupils. So far, 20 of Hackney's schools have been picked as 'early adopters' and have been offering Free Breakfast Clubs to their students. The full roll-out of the scheme in September 2027. This will bring down the costs of before school childcare, as well as widening participation. The breakfast club programme will help primary school children to have a 'soft start' to the day and eat a nutritious breakfast so they are ready to learn.

Local authorities will still be expected to expand the after school offer, working with primary schools. A school-age childcare lead has been appointed to carry this work out, as well as ensuring that the expansion of breakfast clubs to all primary schools is successful.