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Dear headteacher and Chair of Governors,

**Work to protect children, families and staff from racism and harm**

The appalling treatment of Child Q, the Black schoolgirl stripsearched by police in a Hackney school, has caused and continues to cause distress and trauma, to communities both in schools and out.

Hackney's schools and the local education system have great strengths of which you are a significant part. However the system continues to see injustices disproportionately affecting children from Black and global majority backgrounds. These do not happen everywhere but they are too prevalent.

It's up to us working together to change this urgently. Your role as leaders of your staff and pupil community is pivotal to this: we want to collaborate with you and foster collaboration across Hackney and beyond in taking this work forward.

We are clear: our communities - and particularly our Black and Global Majority children - must be consistently better heard, understood, championed and protected.

Last year, the Council took a formal anti-racist position. It means we don't just confront or call-out inequality, but actively fight it. In education, this has included tackling disproportionality in exclusions; training staff to be proactively anti-racist; developing learning materials in line with our vision for a diverse curriculum; reviewing behaviour policies in some schools; and making our workforce more representative. Schools have implemented a range of positive approaches. We must continue this work together so

no Black and global majority ethnic child ever experiences racial trauma in spaces they are meant to feel safe.

In particular, the case of Child Q raised concerns about police practices and policies, safeguarding approaches, and racism.

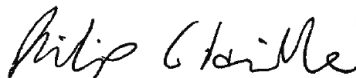
That's why we as a council have undertaken a set of critical actions, ranging from lobbying the government to change the law around policing in schools and undertaking a rapid review of the role of police in schools, to strengthening our whistleblowing policies and moving on implementing an inclusion charter.

Please see the attached leaflet to show the work we are doing with our communities and alongside you as school leaders. Thank you for your work in leading your school to make sure children feel safe and that they all fully belong. We would be pleased to visit your school to discuss this further and hear about the anti-racist practice you lead.

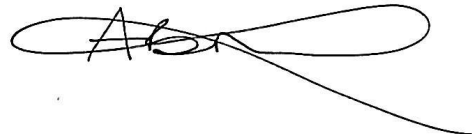
If you or children you know feel triggered or upset by this topic, please find help and support below:

- Search '**Hackney Local Offer**' for lots of different types of support
- Chatworks Hackney is a dedicated space for Afro-Caribbean and dual heritage people to find support and improve their health and wellbeing:  
**[chatworkshackney.co.uk](http://chatworkshackney.co.uk)**
- Counsellors can be found at BACP: **[bacp.co.uk](http://bacp.co.uk)**
- Therapists can be found at BAATN: **[baatn.org.uk](http://baatn.org.uk)**

Yours sincerely



**Philip Glanville**  
Mayor of Hackney



**Cllr Anntoinette Bramble**  
Deputy Mayor and Cabinet member for  
Education, Young People and Children's  
Social Care