

Hackney Education

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Headteachers, Principals and
Chairs of Governors
Hackney Secondary Settings

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Dear Headteachers/Principals and Chairs of Governors,

Israel/Palestine Conflict


Hackney Education is committed to being an anti-racist organisation. We have made this clear in our values and vision; we stand against all forms of hate and we actively challenge anti-Semitic and Islamophobic speech and actions – they have no place in our society and certainly not in our schools.

We are all sad to learn about the loss of lives in the Israel-Palestine conflict. This conflict and the damage it causes arouses strong emotions in many people. Schools have a duty to eliminate racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.

It remains essential that schools teach students about the Israel-Palestine conflict in a fair way with both perspectives presented. It is important that pupils are well informed via trusted and reliable sources. Some students may get some information from sources which promote extremism: schools' work is crucial in providing well informed perspectives to counterbalance one sided communications.

You may well want to make dedicated space in the school or extended day for discussion about this and other issues. You may wish to put a statement on your website indicating that you are doing this.

The website, [here](#), offers useful advice Headteachers may wish to use when discussing the Israel-Palestine conflict with staff, students and parents.

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In the immediate term, some points to consider:

1. Do support all your staff to become confident when teaching contested histories. A useful website where staff, students and parents can get more information is <https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/>
2. Advice on use or abuse of social media can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
3. Our Prevent Education Officer can be contacted at jon.pedlar@hackney.gov.uk and provide further advice, including direct work with students and staff. From his ongoing work with schools, he has also offered the websites below that you might find useful:
 - [Handbook for teachers/community leaders supporting young people in the UK who are affected by this issue](#)
 - [Guide to avoiding antisemitic and Islamophobic hate speech when talking about Israel-Palestine](#)
 - <https://educateagainsthate.com/category/teachers/classroom-resources/>

Our education communications officer can also offer advice on communicating about controversial issues - this is a traded offer except in extraordinary circumstances. Contact Kris Backer Rowley (kristoffer.backer-rowley@hackney.gov.uk) for more information.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss support please do contact helena.burke@hackney.gov.uk or anton.francic@hackney.gov.uk.

With best wishes,



Annie Gammon
Director of Education
Hackney Education