## **Hackney**

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## Statement from the Group Director for Children and Education and the Director of Education: Child Q

We, like you, have felt anger and dismay, around the Child Q case. Our thoughts are with the child and her family. We understand the wider distress across the community and the school community about the degrading treatment of this black girl.

The report raises a number of issues of concern including police approaches, safeguarding protocols in schools and racism. We will rapidly take forward the recommendations of this report across all schools in Hackney and clearly as a safeguarding partnership there is wider action to be taken.

The child and her family have expressed a wish to remain anonymous and there is a court order to that effect. This precludes giving any information which might identify the child. We are therefore, unable at this time, to confirm or deny whether the child was at any one school and schools may give the same response if asked. We hope you understand this response in the light of the circumstances.

A swift review at the school concerned was carried out following the incident, and actions were taken rapidly at the school to ensure no repetition of this could occur and that lessons were learned.

We, as a public body working with young people and families, are committed to the highest standards of safeguarding and equality. All Hackney schools are working to promote equalities and tackle racism: with other colleagues and external input, we are supporting and accelerating this work. We know schools are talking to pupils and parents about these issues and actions. We welcome feedback from all stakeholders about future steps to promote the best for every child in Hackney.

With best wishes,

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Annie Gammon Director of Education

Jacquie Burke Group Director, Children and Education