

# Overview & Scrutiny

## Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

<b>Date of meeting: 11th May 2021</b>
<b>Title of report: Pupil Movement (September 2019-December 2020)</b>
<b>Report author: Chris Roberts, Head of Wellbeing &amp; Education Safeguarding</b>
<b>Authorised by: Annie Gammon, Director of Education</b>
<b>Brief:</b> <p>This report is to provide the commission with an update on pupil movement between schools.</p> <p>All schools experience pupil movement as children and young people change schools, either as a result of moving into or out of Hackney or a change of school is requested due to parental preference. Hackney Education monitors roll movement and where schools are considered to have above average movement this is explored with the individual school.</p> <p>There is also a specific focus in the report on children and young people who have been permanently excluded; whose parents have opted to electively home educate; and pupils who have been subject to a managed move. Finally the report also covers pupils who attend alternative provision..</p> <p>The report covers the period from September 2019 to December 2020. This provides the commission with information for the period before the first lockdown, during the first lockdown and the first term of the full return return to school.</p> <p>Compared to the period prior to the first lockdown demand decreased in all areas during the lockdown. This could be expected as schools were closed to the majority of pupils at this time.</p> <p>When schools fully reopened in September 2020 in-year school admissions returned to something close to pre-lockdown levels. However when schools returned in September the number of parents opting to home educate their children increased significantly. In contrast the number of permanent exclusions reduced significantly. This has led to fewer children attending alternative provision.</p>

# Report to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

**Report title:** Pupil Movement

**Meeting date:** 11th May 2021

**Report originator:** Chris Roberts, Head of Wellbeing & Education Safeguarding

## **1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1. This report will provide Councillors with an overview on additions and removals from school admission registers.
- 1.2. There is a specific focus on pupils who have left their school for one of the following reasons:
  - 1.2.1. to elective home education
  - 1.2.2. been permanently excluded
  - 1.2.3. been subject to a managed move
- 1.3. These last three categories are a relatively small cohort of pupils who are removed from a schools admission register amidst the much greater levels of pupil movement that exists.
- 1.4. The report will look at the available locally reported data from September 2019 to December 2020. This will provide the commission with an overview of the picture of pupil movement that existed before the first lockdown, during the first lockdown and the first full return to school.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Commission members are asked to note the contents of this report.

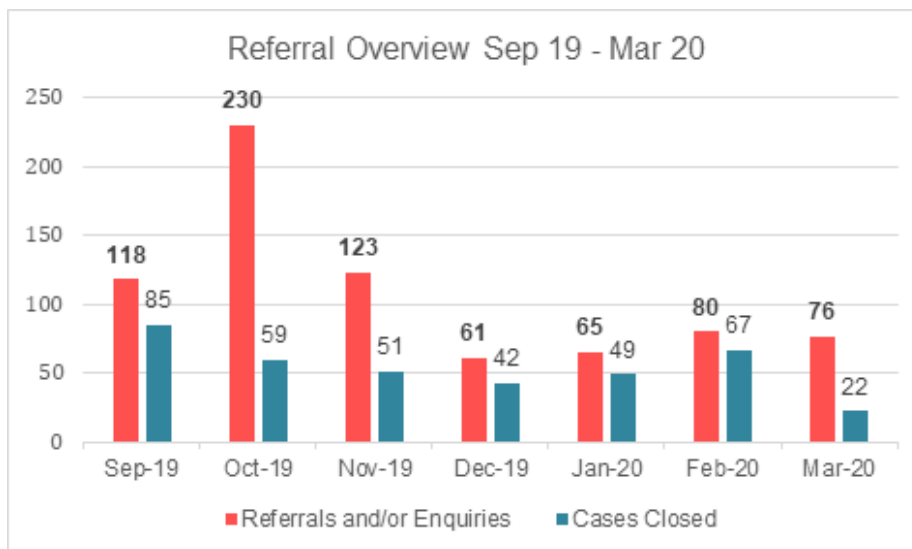
## **3. Pupil movement**

- 3.1. All schools in Hackney experience some level of pupil movement during the period under consideration with pupils joining and leaving the school.
- 3.2. Majority of pupil movement relates to pupils:
  - 3.2.1. moving into Hackney and needing a local school place;
  - 3.2.2. moving out of Hackney and no longer needing a local school place; or
  - 3.2.3. transferring from one local school to another.
- 3.3. Within this wider picture of pupil movement it is not always possible to identify a new school for the pupil (i.e. because they have moved abroad) and these children are recorded as Children Missing Education (CME).
- 3.4. In addition there is a relatively small cohort of children and young people who are moving from one school either because they are moving into elective home education, have been permanently excluded or have been subject to a managed move.

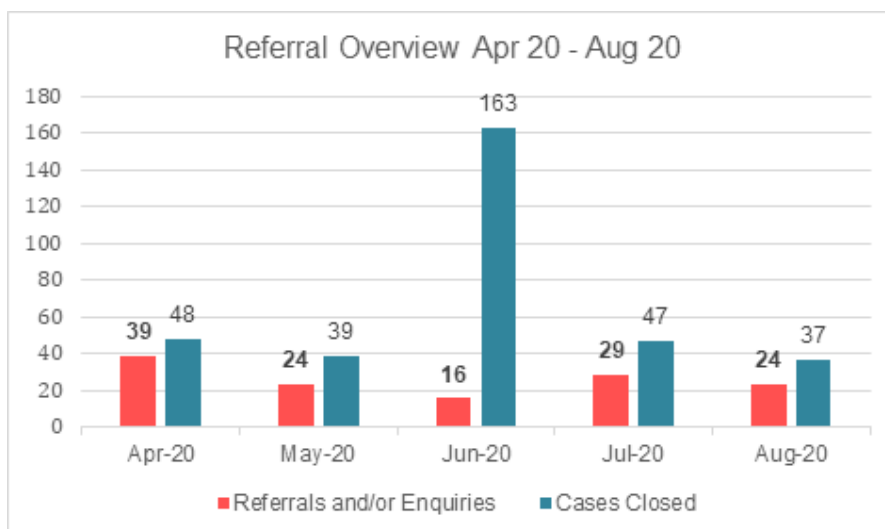
## **4. Additions/removals from school admission registers and Children Missing Education**

- 4.1. Since September 2016, all schools, including academies and independent schools, have been legally required to notify their local authority details of all pupils who have been either added to or removed from their admission register (this is also known colloquially as the school roll).

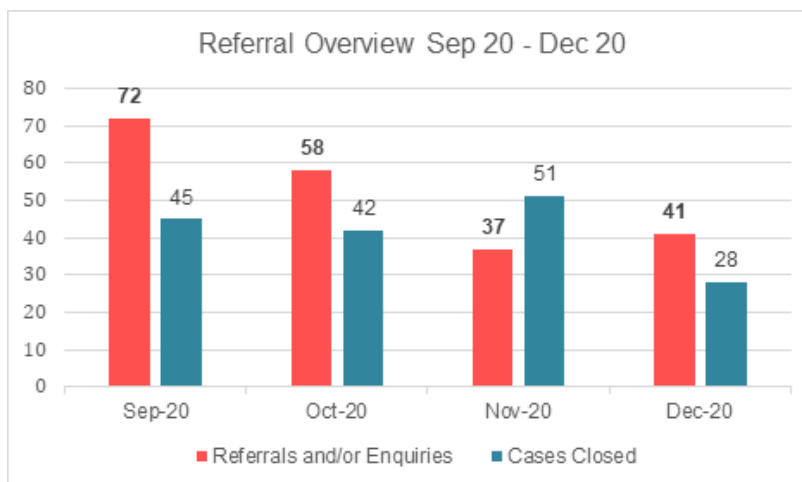
- 4.2. Schools are required to notify the local authority within five school days of an addition to the admission register and within one school day of a removal.
- 4.3. Pupils can only lawfully be removed from the admission register on one of the grounds set out in the regulations.
- 4.4. Once a school has added or removed a pupil from the admission register they are required to submit a joiner/leaver report to Hackney School Admissions.
- 4.5. If, having undertaken reasonable enquiries, the school does not have a confirmed new school for that pupil they should also submit a Children Missing Education (CME) referral to Hackney's Pupils Out of School team.
- 4.6. A Child Missing Education is a child of compulsory school age who is not on the admission register of state funded or independent school.
- 4.7. CME referral data for the period under review:



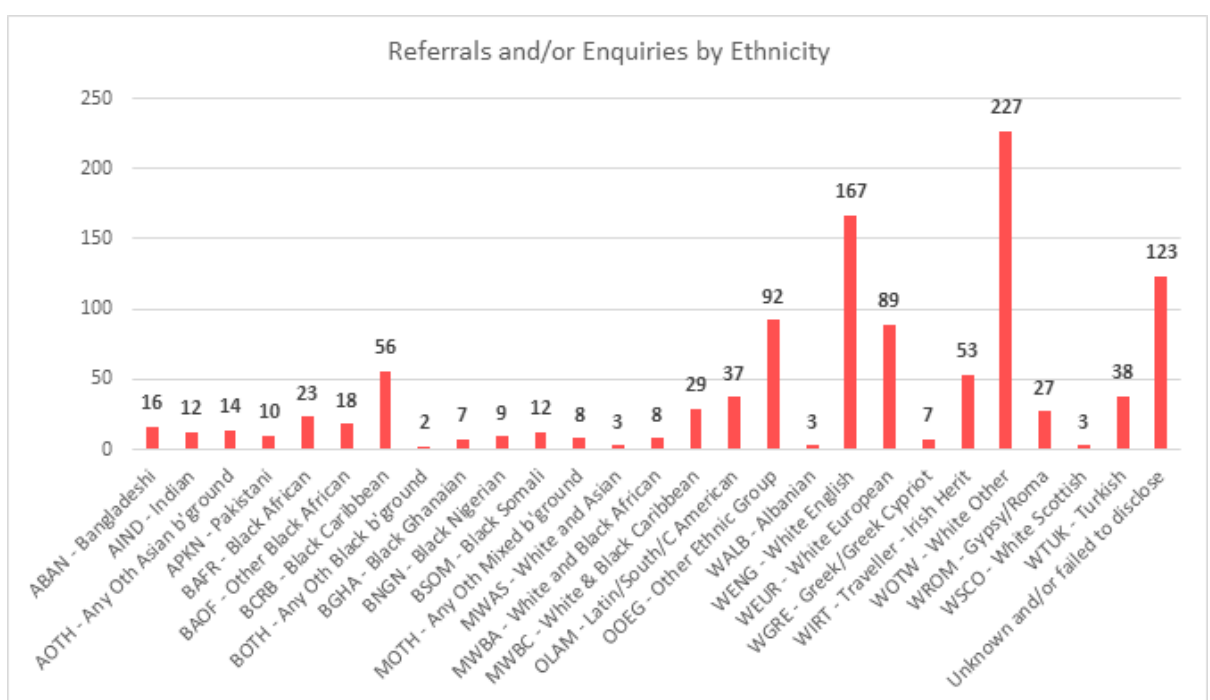
The service received a high number of referrals in October and November 2019 following the closure of a local independent school.



With restrictions on movement following Covid-19, overall referrals to the service fell during this period. The high closure rates in June reflect those in Year 11 who are no longer considered statutory school age.



#### 4.8. CME demographic data for the period under review



- 4.9. In addition to regular CME referrals, which relate to children and young people moving into or out of Hackney without a known new school, there is also a sizable cohort of young people in Hackney who are educated at Yeshivas. These are unregistered education settings that have a curriculum that is deemed too narrow for them to be a school or meet the requirements of provision of education otherwise than at school. Therefore young people attending these settings fulfil the definition of children missing education. The commission has previously been updated on unregistered education settings and this cohort continues to present a significant challenge for Hackney Education.
- 4.10. The school admissions team routinely writes to all schools, including independent schools, reminding them of their legal requirement to report additions and removals to their admissions register and the process for doing so. The most recent occasions were in September 2020 (maintained schools) and in December 2020 (independent schools).
- 4.11. Hackney Council does not have the legal powers to inspect the attendance and admission registers of academies and independent schools.

## **5. Hackney Education's response to schools with above average roll movement**

- 5.1. The commission has previously recommended that follow up action continues to be taken in respect of schools that have above average levels of roll movement. Roll movement between Years 10 and 11 has previously been highlighted as an area the commission was concerned about.
- 5.2. Discussions have been held with secondary headteachers through our School Improvement Partner programmes. In addition there was further scrutiny in the form of focused meetings with six secondary schools in the Autumn term 2020 where figures were above local averages and/or there had been a significant change. This follows focused meetings in the Autumn term 2018 and 2019 linked to the same criteria.
- 5.3. An analysis of the data relating to roll movement between Years 10 and 11 has shown the following:
  - 5.3.1. There has been a gradual fall in the three year average percentage from 6% to 5 %
  - 5.3.2. In two schools the percentage change was greater than 10%
  - 5.3.3. The two year average shows that seven secondary schools have reduced their percentage change
- 5.4. Headteachers were able to provide clear and convincing reasons why pupils had been removed from their admission register. They were able to provide information as to the circumstances (e.g. changed schools; moved away from London; etc.).
- 5.5. All schools viewed removal from the admission register as a potential safeguarding issue.
- 5.6. In secondary schools it is now practice for headteachers to authorise all removals from the admission register and to report information on pupil movement to their governing body.

## **6. In-year school admissions & Fair Access**

- 6.1. Any parent can apply for a school place for their child at any time to any school outside the normal admissions round (admission to reception and transfer from primary to secondary school) and admission authorities must comply with that preference unless it would prejudice the provision of education or the efficient use of resources.
- 6.2. A total of 1324 were allocated places at schools through the in-year admissions process between September 2019 to December 2020. Of this number:
  - 6.2.1. 718 were admitted from September 19 to March 20 (568 primary & 150 secondary);
  - 6.2.2. 86 from April 2020 to August 2020 (67 primary & 19 secondary); and
  - 6.2.3. 520 from September 2020 to December 2020 (424 primary & 96 secondary).
- 6.3. Each local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol, agreed with the majority of schools in its area to ensure that – outside the normal admissions round - unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible.
- 6.4. The majority of pupils considered under the Fair Access Protocol are pupils who have been out of school for two months or more; have challenging behaviour or could not be offered a place because schools applied to were full.

6.5. Between September 2019 and December 2020 a total of 84 pupils (2 primary & 82 secondary) have been considered under the protocol. Of this number:

6.5.1. 54 were admitted between between September 2019 and March 2020;

6.5.2. 8 between April 2020 and August 2020 (the pupils did not start until Sept 2020); and

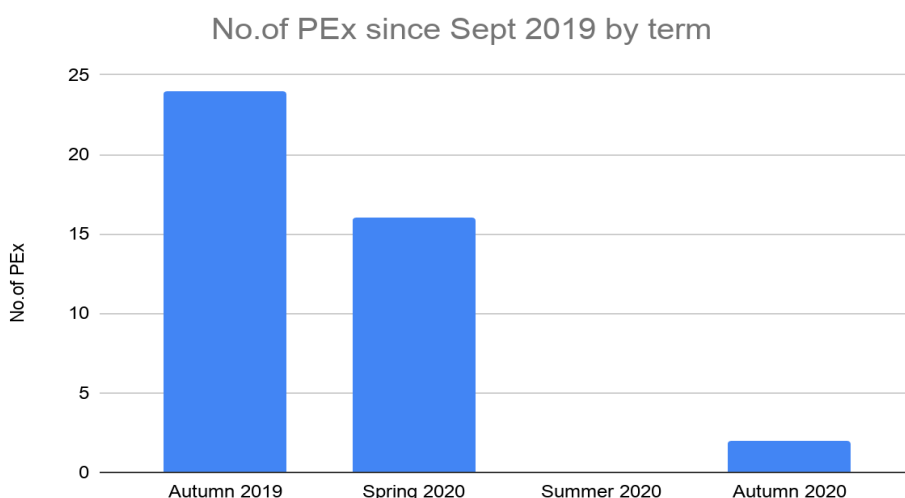
6.5.3. 22 between September 2020 and December 2020.

## 7. Permanent exclusions

7.1. Since September 2019 there have been 42 permanent exclusions from Hackney secondary schools. There have been no permanent exclusions from Hackney primary schools.

7.2. Forty of these permanent exclusions occurred in the Autumn and Spring terms of 2019/20.

7.3. Since the first Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 there has been a significant reduction in the number of permanent exclusions from Hackney secondary schools.



7.4. Of these 42 permanent exclusions 32 were male (76%) and 10 were female (24%).

7.5. They were from the following ethnic groups:

7.5.1. Asian (3); Black (21 (of which 10 were Black Caribbean)); Mixed (3); Other (1); White (9); and Not Recorded (5)

7.6. Pupils were in the following years when they were permanently excluded:

7.6.1. Year 7 (5); Year 8 (7); Year 9 (11); Year 10 (14); and Year 11 (5)

7.7. It is too soon to say whether this reduction will be sustained as schools return to pre-pandemic ways of working.

7.8. 50% of our permanent exclusions during this period were for pupils from a black ethnic background. The disproportionate exclusion of pupils from black ethnic backgrounds, particularly those from a black Caribbean background is a national issue and has been highlighted in a number of reports. The Young Black Men project and other Hackney Council, Hackney Education and school based initiatives are working to tackle disproportionality and improve the outcomes for this group of young people. Work on equalities has been reported to scrutiny in the last year.

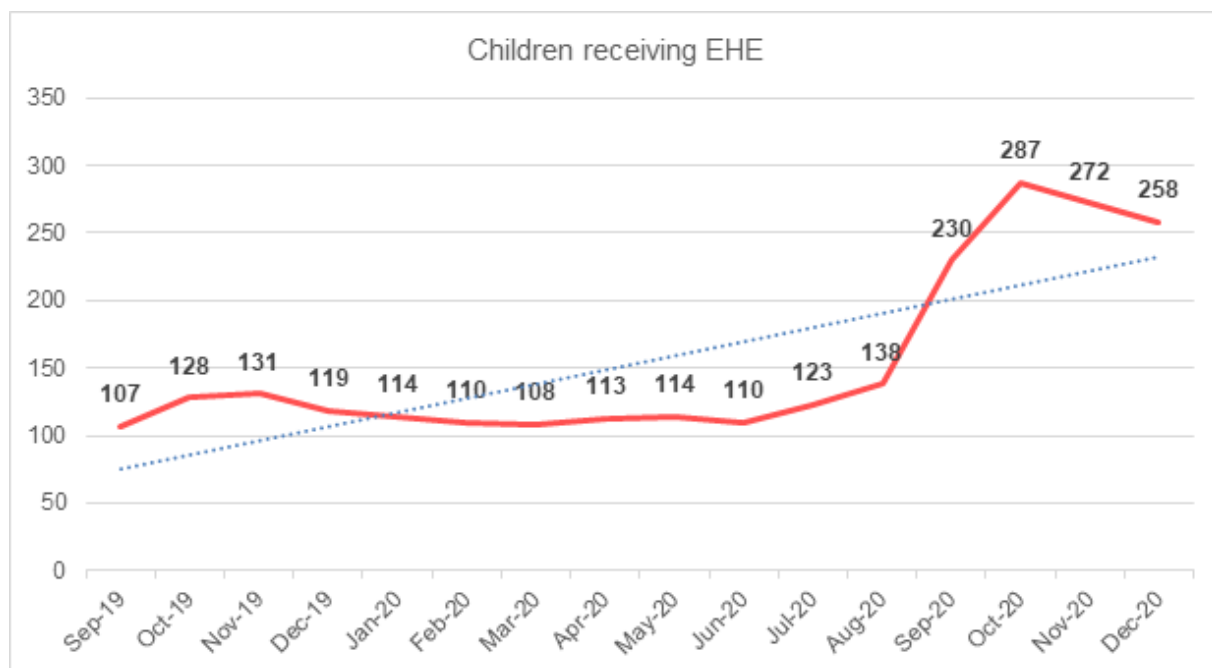
7.9. Reducing rates of exclusion is a strategic priority for Hackney Education. This work is coordinated by the Reducing Exclusions Officer group, which is chaired by the Director of Education. The approach adopted and work is then overseen by a Board, which includes head teacher representatives.

## 8. Elective Home Education

8.1. Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their school age children receive an education that is suitable for their age, ability and aptitude as well as any special educational needs they may have. This can be done through regular attendance at school or by educating them otherwise than at school. Education otherwise includes elective home education (EHE).

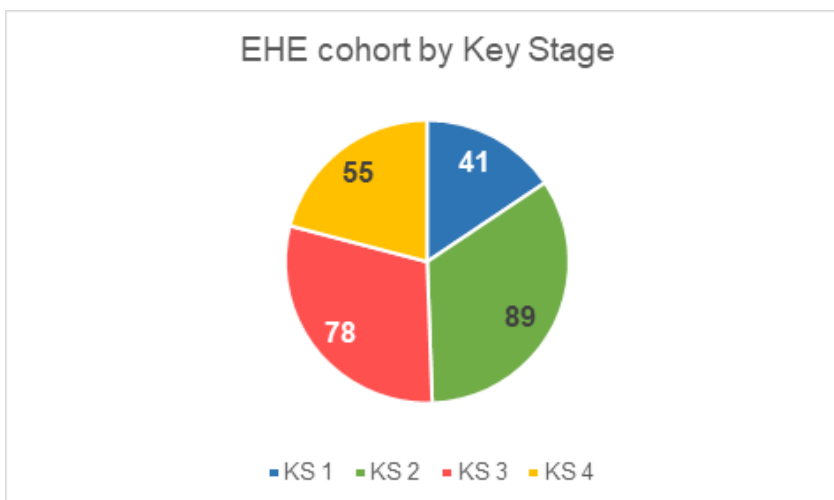
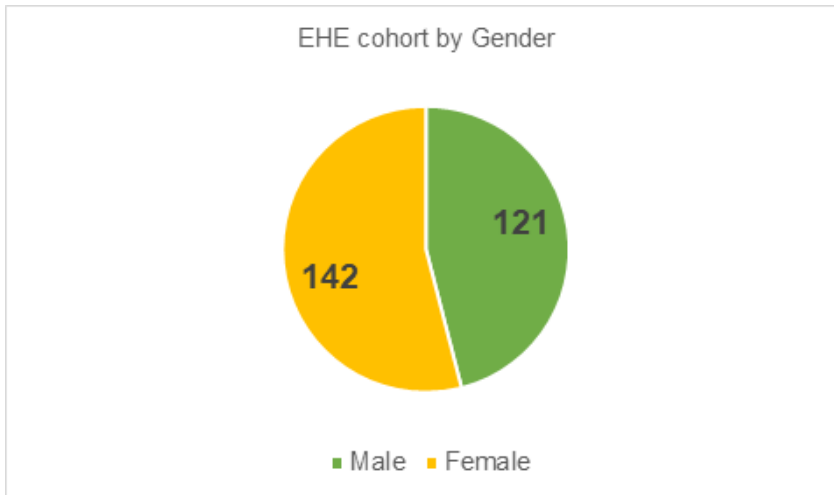
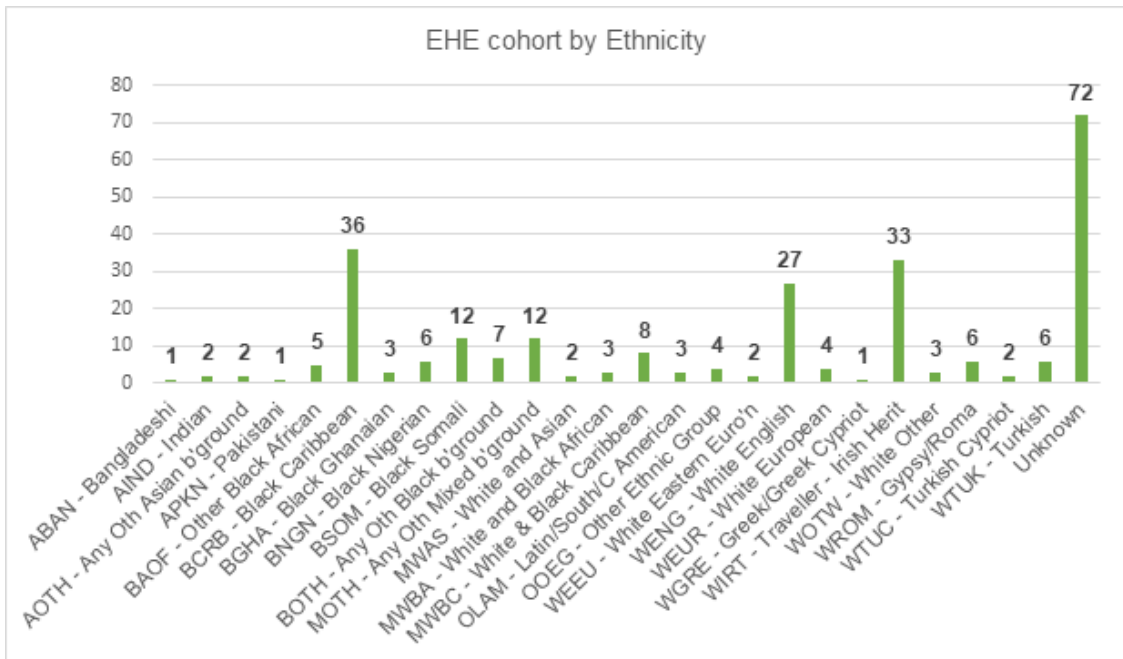
8.2. In September 2020, when pupils resumed full attendance at school following the first lockdown there was a significant increase in the number of families opting for elective home education over attendance at school. Between March 2019 and December 2020 the service saw a 268% increase compared to the same period the previous year. The greatest increase took place following the reopening of schools in September 2020. As a consequence 41% of our current EHE cohort moved to EHE during the Autumn Term.

8.3. Elective Home Education referral data for the period under review:

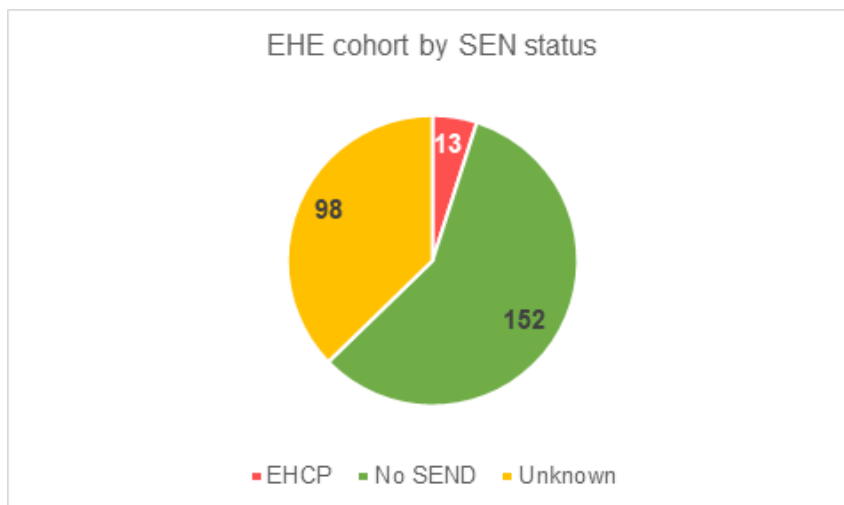


8.4. The majority of these parents cited Covid-19 as their reason for this decision. In many cases this was due to a concern as to whether the school environment was safe, though this reason was not universal. For some this was a positive choice having enjoyed spending time with their children doing home school in the first lockdown and wished this to continue.

8.5. Demographic profile of the current EHE cohort







- 8.6. Parents who opt to electively home educate their children assume full responsibility for provision of their child's education. Hackney Education undertakes an annual assessment of the education being provided by parents to establish whether it is suitable or not.
- 8.7. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a significant driver for parents opting for elective home education since September. The growth in numbers, particularly for those from black and traveller ethnic backgrounds aligns with anecdotal evidence of higher levels of concerns in relation to Covid-19 amongst these communities. In recent months we have started to see some children who were new to elective home education returning to school. Targeted work has been undertaken with those from the traveller community and this has been successful at securing a return to school education.

## 9. Managed moves

- 9.1. Managed moves are a voluntary arrangement between two schools when it is felt that a pupil would benefit from a fresh start in a new school. This could be because of a serious breach of the schools behaviour policy, which has meant the pupil is at risk of permanent exclusion or it may be for some other reason. It is an alternative to permanent exclusion.
- 9.2. A managed move should only take place with the agreement of both schools and the pupil's parents/carers.
- 9.3. When a managed move is agreed the pupil will have a trial period at the new school. During the trial period the pupil will remain on the admission register of both schools. This is known as dual registration. At the end of the trial period, if it is successful, the pupil transfers permanently to the new school. If it is unsuccessful the pupil returns to their former school.
- 9.4. As they are an informal arrangement between schools, national guidance around the use of managed moves is limited.
- 9.5. In Hackney managed moves are agreed at a school level and are not centrally coordinated by the local authority. Therefore when a headteacher wishes to arrange a managed move they arrange this directly with another head teacher either in their geographical vicinity or within multi-academy trust. Sometimes the Exclusion Officer within Hackney's Pupils Out of School team will be involved and assist in brokering a managed move as an alternative to permanent exclusions.

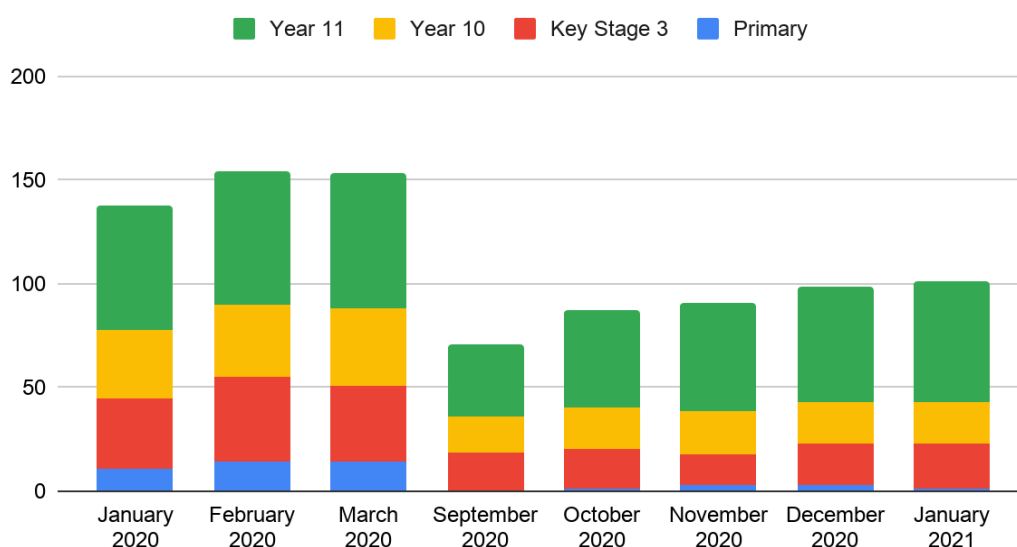
- 9.6. Schools can report managed moves between Hackney schools to the Fair Access Panel in order to obtain 'weighting credit' under the protocol. Between September 2019 and March 2020 there were nine successful managed moves reported to the Fair Access Panel for credit. A further eight managed moves occurred between September 2020 and December 2020. There were no managed moves during the first lockdown between April 2020 and August 2020.
- 9.7. Of the nine managed moves that occurred between September 2019 and March 2020 five were male and four were female. The eight managed moves that occurred between September 2020 and December 2020 all were male pupils.
- 9.8. They were from the following ethnic groups:
  - 9.8.1. September 2019-March 2020: Black (4 (of which 3 were Black Caribbean)); Mixed (2); White (2); and Not Recorded (1)
  - 9.8.2. September 2020-December 2020: Asian (1); Black 4 (of which none were Black Caribbean)); Mixed (1); and Not Recorded (2)
- 9.9. Pupils were in the following year groups when they underwent a managed move:
  - 9.9.1. September 2019-March 2020: Year 7 (1); Year 8 (5); Year 10 (3)
  - 9.9.2. September 2020-December 2020: Year 8 (2); Year 9 (3); Year 10 (3)
- 9.10. This data reported to Hackney Council would indicate that there have been 17 successful managed moves between September 2019 and December 2020.
- 9.11. As with exclusions pupils from non-white backgrounds are more likely to undergo a managed move. Pupils from a black ethnic background made up 47% of our known managed moves. The Young Black Men project and other Hackney Council, Hackney Education and school based initiatives are working to tackle disproportionality and improve the outcomes for this group of young people. Work on equalities has been reported to scrutiny in the last year.

## **10. Alternative Provision**

- 10.1. Hackney has a statutory duty under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to '*make arrangements for the suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them*'.
- 10.2. This duty is discharged by New Regent's College, which is funded for 240 places. These arrangements are overseen by a Service Level Agreement between Hackney Council and New Regent's College.
- 10.3. Pupils may attend New Regent's College for a range of reasons. The largest cohort is those who have been permanently excluded from school, although there are other reasons why a pupil may be on roll. These include short term partnership placements, where the pupil attends on a dual registration basis with their home school and new arrivals from overseas in Year 11 for whom ESOL provision is considered more appropriate.
- 10.4. Not all pupils attend the New Regent's College site itself. Arrangements are made for some pupils to be educated at independent sector alternative provision or colleges in Hackney and the neighbouring boroughs.

- 10.5. Since September 2020 the number of pupils on roll has fallen with the total number on roll in January 2021 25% lower than in January 2020. This is a consequence of the pandemic and having fewer permanent exclusions from schools in the Autumn term.
- 10.6. The decrease has primarily been in pupils in primary, key stage 3 and year 10, which have fallen by 90%; 35%; and 39% respectively. Whereas the number of pupils in Year 11 has only fallen by 3%.
- 10.7. We do not hold data for the period prior to January 2020 so are unable to provide comparative information for the period September 2019 to December 2020.
- 10.8. The number of pupils on roll at New Regent's College is as follows:

No. of Pupils On Roll at NRC Jan 20-Jan 21



- 10.9. At the start of January 2021 there were 103 pupils on roll at New Regent's College. Of these:
- 10.9.1. 77 were male (75%) and 26 were female (25%)
  - 10.9.2. 11 pupils had an EHCP (10%).
- 10.10. They were from the following ethnic groups:
- 10.10.1. Asian (11); Black (44 (of which 21 were Black Caribbean)); Mixed (20); Other (10); White (17); and Not Recorded (1)
  - 10.10.2. 83% of the cohort at New Regent's College is from a non-white ethnic background, with black pupils forming the largest group making up 42% of pupils on roll.
- 10.11. The pupil cohort at New Regent's College is reflective of Hackney as a whole and reflects the already known disproportionality in exclusions, where black boys are more likely to be excluded from school than their white peers. As stated above there are efforts across the education system in Hackney to address this.

## 11. Conclusion

- 11.1. Hackney Education has oversight of pupil movement in the borough through the School Admissions team and the Pupil's Out of School team.

- 11.2. During the first Covid-19 lockdown the number of children reported as children missing education, applying for a school place, opting for elective home education, being permanently excluded or being subject to a managed move declined.
- 11.3. Following the full return to school in September 2020 the numbers of parents opting to electively home educate their children increased significantly and the number of children being permanently excluded declined significantly.
- 11.4. Hackney Education continues to monitor pupil movement locally. There are systems in place to monitor pupil movement between schools and for identifying pupils who are missing from education or at risk of becoming so.
- 11.5. A number of groups of pupils are disproportionately impacted by some of these reasons why pupils move from their school. This is a priority area for Hackney Education and we are recruiting to a new role with a focus on engagement with parents and disproportionality.
- 11.6. This is in addition to the ongoing work to reduce the use of exclusions through supporting inclusive whole school practice in schools and targeted work in relation to individual young people.

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**Date:**

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