

Via email to: request-392833-d9683535@whatdotheyknow.com

21 March 2017
Ref: 2017-0011826

Dear Mr Lempereur

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 2 March 2017. You requested:

.....
'With respect to the Future Tech Studio School (FTSS) Warrington (Winwick Road Campus, Warrington, WA2 8QA), could you please tell me:

1. The rationale for the closure of FTSS?
2. Whether any inquiries were made to other schools in the Warrington borough regarding transferring students from FTSS to them in September 2017?
 - 2.1 If inquiries were made, when they were made, and to which schools, academies, or service providers?
 - 2.2 If inquiries were made, whether this considered the needs of SEND students who, in terms of residual outcomes, have excelled with the environment and support at FTSS?

I have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A copy of the information is enclosed at Annex A.

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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled, you should make a complaint to the Department by writing to me within two calendar months of the date of this letter. Your complaint will be considered by an independent review panel, which were not involved in the original consideration of your request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint to the Department, you may then contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Yours sincerely

Amy Charnock
Academies Regional Delivery Group - Lancashire & West Yorkshire
Department for Education

Annex A

1. The rationale for the closure of FTSS?

Demand from pupils and parents to attend Future Tech Studio School is low, making the school financially unviable. The trust explored various options over a period of time with the Department for Education, the Education Funding Agency and the local authority to find a viable future for the school, but none proved to be feasible solutions.

2. Whether any inquiries were made to other schools in the Warrington borough regarding transferring students from FTSS to them in September 2017?

2.1 If inquiries were made, when they were made, and to which schools, academies, or service providers?

2.2 If inquiries were made, whether this considered the needs of SEND students who, in terms of residual outcomes, have excelled with the environment and support at FTSS?

Before any decision to close a school is taken the capacity and curriculum of schools and colleges in the local area are taken into consideration. It is the local authority's responsibility for coordinating the process of identifying places and agreeing transfers with local heads. We will continue to work with the local authority, trust and local schools to secure appropriate placements for all pupils. Plans will be put in place to ease pupils' transitions to other schools.

The local authority is also responsible to ensure suitable education is provided and the support specified in a child's Educational Health Care (EHC) plan is delivered. The trust and council will work closely with the affected parents to minimise disruption of the pupils' learning.