

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 26943**

*I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information held by the local authority.*

*I would like to be sent information relating to the council’s annual report to the Office for the Schools Adjudicator for 2024-25.*

*In it, the council said: “When a previously looked after child or looked after child is refused admission to an academy within our county borders, the Virtual School Head firstly makes checks that those making the application are doing so from an informed position and that the reasons for selecting the school are sound. Possible alternatives are explored. However, if this process ascertains the setting applied for is appropriate and alternatives are not viable the LA then writes to the academy giving notice of our intention to seek a direction as per the statutory guidance. In all cases where this action has been taken the academy in question has very swiftly accepted the pupil on to their roll without the need to progress the direction further.*

*“When a previously looked after child or looked after child is refused admission to an academy in another LA following moving there, the Virtual School Head firstly makes checks that those making the application are doing so from an informed position and that the reasons for selecting the school are sound. Possible alternatives are explored. However, if this process ascertains the setting applied for is appropriate and alternatives are not viable, the Virtual School Head writes to the Chief Executive Officer of the academy giving notice of our intention to seek a direction as per statutory guidance. In most cases where this action has been taken the academy in question has very swiftly accepted the pupil on to their roll without the need to progress the direction further.*

*“...Whilst the Fair Access Protocol works effectively across most of the county, there are some areas where schools are reluctant to accept pupils through the protocol and this can result in children being out of school for long periods of time.”*

*Regarding this, I would like to be sent:*

*1. The names and URNs of all the schools the council wrote to in 2024-25 giving notice of its intention to seek a direction*

<b>2024/2025</b>		
<b>School Name</b>	<b>School URN</b>	<b>Child Admitted Y/N</b>
Stradbroke High School	137901	Yes
Linton Village College, Cambridgeshire	136442	Yes
Westbourne Academy	139288	N/A*
Rackham Church of England Primary School, Ely	110807	Yes

N/A\* - applies as an alternative placement was found and the original school place was not pursued.

2. *Along with this, I would like to be sent the outcome of the letters – i.e. was the child admitted or not?*

Please see the table above.

3. *A year-by-year breakdown showing the number of times the council wrote to schools giving notice of its intention to seek a direction in 2022-23 and 2023-24*

2022/2023	<5
2023/2024	8

4. *The names and URNs of the schools “reluctant” to accept pupils through fair access, along with any figures supporting this claim*

Suffolk County Council do not record data of schools that are ‘reluctant’ to accept pupils as this is recorded as either a ‘Yes’ or a ‘No’