

Annual Student Meeting (Additional Meeting July 2024)

Motion 8: Should the Students' Union pressure QMUL to stop the Westfield Nursery closure and consider the students' voice?

Proposer: Ines Nolasco

Seconder: Jialei Huang

What do you want?

- 1) Lobby QMUL to extend the Consultation Process: Ensure due diligence by including all stakeholders, particularly students, in the consultation process. (PAUSE)
- 2) Find Feasible Solutions: Collaborate to identify a feasible solution to keep Westfield Nursery open or, at the very least, delay its closure. (STOP or DELAY)

We need to demand complete transparency from QMUL to make it possible to work together on this.

Why do you want it?

The nursery provides an indispensable service to student parents that is hard to replace. Not only because of the quality of the service and its proximity, but also financially, given students receive a discounted rate. Student parents, who do not have any form of employment, are excluded from the primary state childcare supports, placing them in a particularly disadvantaged position.

The brief notice (3 months) provided for the closure has severely disrupted the lives of student parents, forcing some to consider postponing or entirely cancel their academic plans. (Nearby nurseries have waiting lists longer than 6 months)

The reasons for this closure (financial difficulties) appear dubious and lack transparency. We claim that the process has not followed its due diligence, leaving affected communities without a voice.

University states they have tried everything in their power to keep the nursery open, but nursery staff claim suggestions to improve financial conditions (increase fees, hire permanent staff) have been summarily rejected.

We believe a solution to stop the closure or at least delaying it, to allow enough time for parents to find appropriate arrangements, can be found.

What impact will this have?

- 1) Consideration of Student Impact: This motion will work to ensure that the university takes into account the significant impact the closure will have on current and future student parents.
- 2) Reduce impact on current Student parents with kids at the nursery: By potentially keeping the nursery open or delaying its closure, this motion aims to prevent the immense disturbance to student parents, where many need to consider dropping out of their academic programs added to the negative impact on wellbeing.
- 3) this could be the starting point towards a more fair and just system for all student parents, current and future.