



St Patrick's Primary School

75 Mullinahoe Road Ardboe BT71 5AU

Principal: Mr. Joe Canavan

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Re: Action Short of Strike and Strike Action (Non-Teaching Staff)

Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of the planned Action Short of Strike action and Strike Action being undertaken by the four main school support Unions (UNISON, GMB, UNITE and NIPSA) with Strike Action taking place across the whole of Northern Ireland on **Thursday 16th November 2023**. These unions represent thousands of non-teaching staff in education, and they are taking this Strike Action over the failure to reform their pay and the continued cuts to the education budget.

You may be aware of coverage by media outlets, so I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

How will strike Action impact St. Patrick's Primary School?

Due to the above planned strike action the school will **not** be open for pupils on the morning of **Thursday 16th November until 11.30 am** (there will be no bus at this time). There will be **no** provision of school meals on this day (including children who receive Free School Meals). Parents should ensure their children have a nourishing meal before coming to school and send a substantial break/snack with their child for the afternoon.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A strike by teaching support union is the direct result of the failure to consider the very real concerns expressed by non-teaching staff. All staff in our school are invaluable to the learning, development and safeguarding of the children in our care. Taking strike action is not something that any non-teaching staff member would undertake lightly but we feel strongly that they should be paid fairly for the essential work that they do.

We fully appreciate that this will cause some disruption for our families. However, we hope that you understand the reasons for engaging in this action.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Canavan

Principal

Together We Pray, We Play, We Learn, We Grow.