



St Patrick's Primary School

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Full day strike action Thursday 18th January 2024

Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of the planned full day strike action on Thursday 18th January 2024. You will be aware from media coverage of this matter, disruption is expected to be widespread, with other public sector trade unions including INTO, NAHT, NASUWT, NEU, UTU, NIPSA, UNISON, GMB and Unite the Union all taking action. Given the scale of the industrial action, disruption is expected to be widespread, impacting across all service areas.

How will strike action affect St Patrick's Primary School?

I want to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school. When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Everyone involved in the action will, therefore, not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on the strike day.

A risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum and to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

We have determined that an appropriate level of supervision/assistance or support cannot be provided and that there may be health and safety issues and other additional concerns around safeguarding arrangements. In light of this we have determined that **the school will be closed for all pupils on Thursday 18th January 2024.**

We wanted to inform you as soon as possible so that you could make the necessary arrangements for your children. Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. This is a very unusual circumstance and is the direct result of the failure to consider the very real concerns expressed by all school leaders, teachers and education workers.

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 anyone would undertake lightly, and we hope that you understand the reasons for engaging in this action. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike. We encourage parents/carers to check the EA website for regular updates and details of any planned disruption here: www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Principal St Patrick's Mullinahoe

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