

20 March 2026

### **Industrial Action by support staff members of UNISON**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well. I am writing to inform you that members of UNISON, a support staff union, at St Patrick's members have voted for strike action. They have identified two dates for this strike action:

**Tuesday 24 March 2026**

**Wednesday 25 March 2026**

Currently schools and Trusts are facing significant financial pressures caused by continued underfunding by the Department for Education. Costs at our schools have been rising faster than the income we receive from the DfE. At St Patrick's this has been compounded by less children coming into the school. Overall, the school is spending significantly more than it receives, leading to a deficit budget position, which is not sustainable.

The decision to strike relates to concerns raised by union members about proposals to make some reductions to staffing levels within the school. We are in the process of reviewing staffing levels to ensure that our staffing model is sustainable, effective, and aligned with the needs of our pupils. The proposals would bring the level of teaching and support staff in line with DfE expectations for the number of pupils attending the school. Children's safety, happiness and spiritual, social and academic development remain our priority in the proposed new structure.

**Nursery, Reception and Year 2 will be closed on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Children in these classes will need to remain at home.**

**All other classes (1, 3, 4, 5, 6) will remain open as normal.**

**For children in open classes breakfast club, afterschool club and boosters will go ahead.**

**SEND Reviews will NOT go ahead and will be rescheduled for after the Easter Holidays.**

The staff who will be striking are Teaching Assistants and so provision for some children may be different to usual. If you have any questions about this, please do contact the school office. We are aware that this strike action by support staff may be unsettling for some children and families and we apologise for any disruption this may cause.

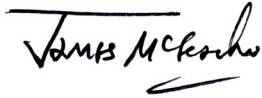
We are continuing our discussions with the Trade Unions, in the hope that we may be able to resolve the dispute without the need for strike action and will write to you again early next week with final confirmation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support



Yours sincerely,



James McGeachie  
CEO, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



Hannah Stevenson Headteacher  
St Patrick's Catholic Primary  
School

