

15th April 2026

Further industrial Action by support staff members of UNISON

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and that you had a lovely Easter break. I wrote to you before Easter to inform you of planned strike action by support staff members of UNISON. I have now been informed by UNISON that their members will be taking further strike action again next week on the following days:

Tuesday 21 April 2026

Wednesday 22 April 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. 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. UNISON have presented us with a number of demands and we have been working with them to seek a resolution.

Nursery, Reception, Year 2 and Year 5 will be closed on Tuesday 21st April and Wednesday 22nd April
Children in these classes will need to remain at home.

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

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

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 this strike action and will write to you again early next week with final confirmation. Please note that there may be further strike action by teaching assistants in coming weeks. If this is the case, we will give as much notice as we can.

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





OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely,

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