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Date: 24 October 2023



Education Department
Council Offices
211 Main Street
Barrhead
G78 1SY

Dear Parent/Carer

Proposed Industrial Action: Wednesday 1 November 2023

I write to inform you that East Renfrewshire Council has received official notification of strike action from the Unison Trade Union representing many local government staff employed by the Council.

It is proposed that the industrial action will take place on Wednesday 1st November 2023. Our aim as always, is to ensure a safe environment for our staff and young people and to maintain continuity of learning where possible. The proposed strike action will be undertaken by staff who work in a school or early learning and childcare establishment that is co-located with or based in a school. Staff affected includes cleaners, janitors, pupil support staff, child development officers, early years play workers, administration and business support staff, technical staff and catering staff.

Regretfully, given the number of staff affected, all primary schools and Isobel Mair School will be closed on this date. In addition, secondary schools will be closed to all pupils in S1 – S3.

For pupils in S4 – S6, our intention is that learners will attend school. We are currently in discussion with our secondary head teachers about this, as you will appreciate it is contingent on the necessary health and safety requirements being met in each school. Your child's school will confirm arrangements in the next few days.

Arrangements will be made for those pupils unable to attend school due to closure to ensure learning provision is available remotely. Details of this will be shared by your child's school in the coming days. For any families requiring additional support or access to digital equipment, your child's school will be able to provide more details of how this will be made available.

With the exception of a small number of stand-alone centres, all early learning and childcare establishments will also close.

The following centres will be open and should operate as normal:

- Arthurlie Family Centre
- Cart Mill Family Centre
- Glen Family Centre
- Glenwood Family Centre
- Hazeldene Family Centre
- McCready Family Centre



Mark Ratter, Director of Education, East Renfrewshire Offices, 211 Main St, Barrhead G78 1SY

- Overlee Family Centre

I recognise that the industrial action will not only cause significant disruption to the learning of our children and young people, but also disruption to you as a family, as you make alternative arrangements for childcare during these days. Although this is out with the Council's control, I would like to apologise to you for the inconvenience.

For those pupils who are eligible to receive free school meals and have completed an application, a payment will be made to the main parent/carer to help meet the costs of a meal during the closure. A payment of £2.50 per day will be paid in advance of the winter school break, in addition to the holiday payment. Please note, the payment will be made to the bank account details held on record for the payment of any other benefits paid by the Council.

If you use add-on care in one of the Council's early years establishments then this service will not be available on the days of the strike (other than at those establishments which will remain open). Any payments already made will be deducted from your future charges.

While the Council has been formally notified by trade unions of their intention to strike, there is also the possibility that through ongoing negotiations the strike may not take place. The department will keep you informed as the situation develops through the Council website: www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Yours faithfully



Mark Ratter
Director of Education

