



**St Eugene's Primary School**

Victoria Bridge

Strabane

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TEL: 028 8165 8439

30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parent,

### **Strike action by non-teaching staff**

Significant disruption to school services is expected as a result of strike action notified by a number of trade unions next week, **mainly Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2024**. I am writing to outline the expected impact on our school.

### **How will strike action affect St Eugene's Primary School?**

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted that 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, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As the Principal, I and the Board of Governors have determined the following:

- Due to NIPSA members being on strike there will be no classroom assistants, supervisors, or support staff available in our school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.
- There will be no one-to-one special needs support for statemented children.
- There will be unsafe staffing ratios with only 3 teachers available for our entire pupil population.

**On the grounds of Health and Safety we will therefore be unable to provide face to face teaching for our children, therefore, we are left with no option other than to provide remote learning on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. Pupil codes for Seesaw will be sent home with all children tomorrow so that online learning can take place. Online tasks will be available from 9.30am on the day of the strike. We encourage all children to take part, however, also understand the realities of home life particularly with this short notice.**

Clearly, this is a difficult situation, which will cause disruption at short notice. I ask you, however, to be understanding. Strike action is very unusual and taking the step of strike action is not something that any member of the school staff undertakes lightly. 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. The support staff in our school are invaluable to the learning, development and safeguarding of your children and I, along with the Board of Governors, feel strongly that they should be paid fairly for the essential and very challenging jobs that they do.

Yours Sincerely,

*Laura Gormley*

**Principal**