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Date: 14 September 2023



Education Department  
Council Offices  
211 Main Street  
Barrhead  
G78 1SY

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to inform you that East Renfrewshire Council has received official notification of strike action from the Trade Unions of Unison and Unite, which represent local government staff employed by the Council.

It is proposed that the industrial action will take place over three consecutive days on 26, 27 and 28 September 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, administration and business support staff, technical staff and catering staff. Regrettably, given the extent of the action on this occasion, all primary, secondary schools and Isobel Mair School, will be closed to all pupils.

All early and childcare establishments, with the exception of a small number of stand-alone centres, 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
- Overlee Family Centre

I understand that the industrial action will cause significant disruption to the learning of our children and young people and that families will have to make alternative arrangements for childcare during these days. I am sorry for the inconvenience this will cause.

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/carers 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 October 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.



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

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](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

Your child's school will contact you to outline arrangements that they are able to put in place for learning activities on the days of industrial action.

Yours faithfully



Mark Ratter  
Director of Education

