

**Date** 19 September 2023

**Ref**

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Closure of Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Early Years settings**

You may be aware from media coverage that industrial action is planned by groups of Council staff in our schools and early years settings next week.

We have been notified by the trade union this will take place on Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September. The impact means all our schools and early years settings will close on those days if the strike action goes ahead.

Children and young people should attend as normal on Monday 25 and Friday 28 September.

As the industrial action includes pupil support assistants, early years colleagues as well as catering, transport escorts and cleaning staff, it will not be possible to ensure the safety of the children and young people.

Individual schools and settings will share their plans for contingency learning and checking in with you for the three days.

Free School Meal payments for eligible families will be sent out by the Council's Transactions Team on Friday 29 September.

The industrial action also affects childcare provision by Out of School Care providers and means families will need to make alternative arrangements for the three days. Lets will also not be able to go ahead during the strike action.

Should there be any changes to the planned industrial action, we will be in contact with you immediately. I am sorry that these arrangements have had to be put in place to close our schools and early years settings but I hope you understand our position.

Yours sincerely



**Amanda Hatton, Executive Director for Children, Education and Justice Services**