



Dear Parent/Guardian,

It was a real pleasure to welcome all our students back to school today. Despite the wet and blustery morning, everyone arrived safe and happy, and we are very grateful to you for the support you have given in preparing your child for the return. The positive start has set a great tone for the year ahead.

I also wish to inform you that school secretaries and caretakers who are members of the **Fórsa trade union** have planned indefinite industrial action beginning on **Thursday, 28 August**, with pickets to be placed at schools. Please be assured that the school will remain **open as normal for all students**, and teaching and learning will continue without disruption.

However, due to this action, **phones in the school office will go unanswered**. Emergency contact can be made via email to info@mercyinchicore.ie. It is essential that all attendance issues are logged directly by parents/guardians on the **Tyro app**. The Department of Education and Youth has referred the matter to the **Workplace Relations Commission (WRC)** to help resolve the dispute and will continue to engage with all parties involved. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

As we settle back in, I would like to remind everyone of a few important expectations which help ensure a safe and productive school environment:

- **Attendance and Punctuality** – Students are expected to be on time each morning and to attend regularly. If a student is late **twice in one week**, they will receive a **25-minute detention on Friday evening after school**. Please encourage your child to arrive on time each day.
- **Absences** – Parents/guardians can use the **Tyro app** to log absences directly. This is the most efficient way to ensure attendance is recorded correctly.
- **Uniform** – Full school uniform must be worn at all times. Students who arrive without their correct uniform will be asked to return home to change before being admitted to class.
- **Mobile Phones** – We operate a **zero-tolerance policy** on phone use. Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be **confiscated**. Parents/guardians will be required to come to the school to collect the phone.
- **Office & Sick Calls** – Students may only go to the office to go home sick at **11:00am** and **1:00pm**. The school cannot make sick calls outside these times except in cases of genuine emergency.



- **Behaviour** – We expect all students to treat staff, fellow students, and our school environment with respect.
- **Homework** – Completion of homework is vital for reinforcing classroom learning and developing good study habits.

Thank you once again for your understanding, support, and cooperation. Working together, we can ensure a successful and enjoyable year for all our students.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Hanrahan'.

James Hanrahan
Acting Principal

See Forsa strike info and petition below.



Strike for pension parity!

FORSA



What's the issue?

We don't have the same terms and conditions as our school colleagues who are SNAs and teachers. Why not?



We're fighting for pension parity in schools, a single contract of employment for all caretakers and secretaries, and access to decent sick leave and bereavement leave.

We're the first to arrive and the last to leave. Without us, schools simply don't function.



Show your support:

- Sign the pledge and share it with your school community.
- Tell your T.D.s and Councillors that you support us.



**Sign the pledge to show you support pensions
for School Secretaries and Caretakers!**

