

The Fight against Fire and Rehire at Sandwell Leisure Trust Continues

UNISON pickets were out in force at Portway Lifestyle Centre on Monday 23 August. This is the third one-day strike by UNISON members at Sandwell Leisure Trust, after they were fired and rehired to move them away from national NJC pay, terms and conditions.

Car horns were tooted in support and the pickets were joined by four Labour Councillors – who stood in solidarity with UNISON.

After the picket line UNISON leafletted the ward of Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Lead for Leisure, Maria Crompton. Sandwell Council have had 12 months to fix the dispute in the Leisure Centres they own.

How many more months and strikes is it going to take before they fix the dispute?

Does the Council want the embarrassment of strikes by staff during the Commonwealth Games 2022?

Plans for another strike and more leafletting are being planned. Check out Sandwell's website www.sandwellunison.co.uk for more announcements.



Returning Back to Your Workplace?

Whatever your job it is important to remain safe at work. The COVID pandemic is not over. Whilst we all want it to go away, there is still a need to take precautions.

One important measure to remember for anyone working indoors is ventilation, ventilation, ventilation.

At the Council there are plans for a 'soft' return for office-based staff. Whether you work in an office or school, keep windows and doors open where possible. COVID spreads easier in an enclosed space.

No to Forced Academisation of Rounds Green Primary School

Last month saw a huge legal win at Sandwell's Yew Tree Primary School, as the High Court ruled the revocation of an Academy order. The Judge called Education Secretary Gavin Williamson's refusal to revoke the order as 'irrational' because there was clear evidence of school improvements.

This is the first win of its kind, and we hope it acts to give other schools confidence in challenging the Government's decisions to impose Academy status on our Primary schools.

Rounds Green Primary school has been under threat of imposed Academy status since 2016. Since this date vast improvements have been made at the school.

The pandemic has resulted in a suspension of Ofsted inspections. School staff and Governors are requesting a proper inspection be made to confirm improvements.

A strong campaign is mounting at Rounds Green supported by UNISON which is expected to grow and be supported by local community.

UNISON activists were out speaking to parents before the summer break.

UNISON has also contacted the Tory MP for the area Shaun Bailey without receiving a positive response. Will he support the school and local parents, or merely follow the party line?

Please sign the petition below.

[Petition · No to the forced academisation of Rounds Green Primary School · Change.org](#)

(Also on www.sandwellunison.co.uk)