

JUSTICE FOR LA RETRAITE CLEANERS

We, the students, parents, teachers and community members, sign the below in support of the cleaners at La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls' School.

We understand they have had to take strike action in response to the schools' insistence at changing their current working hours to new times that will see many of them unable to continue working at the school due principally to either other jobs they have to get or childcare responsibilities they have.

The cleaners have proposed that a small group of them who can't work the new times of 5pm-7pm remain working at their current times of 3.30pm-5.30pm or latest 4pm-6pm. Even though this would only mean a small number of cleaners starting 1-1.5 hours before the rest, Dominic Malins, the Head of the School has refused to allow this to happen in what can only be described as a callous and contemptuous disregard and lack of respect for the cleaners' well-being and livelihoods, some of whom have been there for nearly 15 years.

We therefore call on the school to allow some cleaners to continue to work their current shift time.

We also understand that the school's cleaning contractor SSL, has suspended (and since reinstated) 3 cleaners and dismissed one without giving them a right of appeal, and that all 4 cleaners have started legal proceedings against SSL for trade union victimisation. And that the 3 cleaners had to take sick leave following their suspensions due to the distress it caused them.

Trade union rights and human rights and we are concerned that La Retraite would be in business with a cleaning company who is facing 4 legal claims of unlawful union busting and ask that the school condemns the cleaning contractor and ensures that there is no repeat behavior from them in this regard.