Template Email to send to T.D.s and Senators

Dear Deputy / Senator (as appropriate)

Over 2,600 school secretaries and caretakers have been on strike since Thursday 28th August.

The school secretaries and caretakers in our community are the heart of our schools. Without them schools can’t function properly.

As your constituent I am calling on you to:

* **Raise this issue in your parliamentary party meetings and with your colleagues in Government to demand pension parity for all workers in our schools**
* **Visit our pickets to show your support**
* [**Sign Fórsa’s pledge and share it publicly**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fact.forsa.ie%2Fpensionparityschools&data=05%7C02%7Chdeasy%40forsa.ie%7C05ce393281db492bad3408ddead98b7a%7Ce0fb20ba0e7e44078bcca18a6601fe5f%7C0%7C0%7C638924942273780508%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vjQgtdchKgc5gHGRJX8wRG2sxh3qq72U1o3ilfDsJ7o%3D&reserved=0)

To see a map of picket locations please click here: [**Pension parity picket locations.**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fmaps%2Fd%2Fu%2F0%2Fedit%3Fmid%3D1J6622xDVbSpxqF1GG7BfYLiuhZz6BIk%26usp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C02%7Chdeasy%40forsa.ie%7C05ce393281db492bad3408ddead98b7a%7Ce0fb20ba0e7e44078bcca18a6601fe5f%7C0%7C0%7C638924942273806348%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fl9plbwxPh3ic99Vn31qwCHWsWNQUW6o22CQ7Wytyno%3D&reserved=0)

School secretaries and caretakers are the people who open the doors, keep the schools running, support students, and close up at the end of the day. Many have given decades of service. And yet, despite being directly employed by the State, they are still being denied pensions, equal contracts, and fair working conditions.

They are employed under the same system as teachers and SNAs appointed by boards of management, paid by the Department of Education. But they are denied public servant status and security even though they go to work every day with teachers and SNAs.

They deserve far better than how they’re being treated by the government, specifically the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. **Without school secretaries and caretakers, schools simply can’t function.**

Fórsa members are currently picketing outside the schools in your constituency and will continue to do so until their demands are met.

Fórsa’s campaign has also received widespread and growing support:

* Close to **40,000** people have signed a public pledge backing our demands.
* Across the country, parents and school communities stand firmly behind us in their thousands
* In April, Minister for Education Helen McEntee TD publicly voiced her support
* And in July, TDs and Senators from the Oireachtas Education Committee added their voices.

But these are just empty words until real action happens. The power to resolve this injustice lies with the Government and, in particular, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

**These workers have waited long enough. They are not asking for special treatment - just equal treatment.**

I look forward to hearing from you.