*Your address and contact details*

Totay’s date

Your MP or councillor

Dear xxx,

We write to bring to your attention the decision made by the University’s Executive Board to close One World Nursery at Moulsecoomb at the end of July.

The Nursery is the only one remaining at the University’s largest campus, which is currently undergoing a multi-million pound overhaul with a new academic building and new student accommodation.

Before the pandemic, the Nursery catered for the children of students, staff and the local community, with around 50 children provided with care and education. The Nursery is recognised as “good” by Ofsted and has won multiple awards and recognition in its 40-year history.

Closure of One World will almost certainly mean the loss of 11 jobs, including those who have worked at the Nursery for several decades and those currently in the process of being redeployed from Phoenix Nursery, which closed last year.

UNISON is opposed to the closure, the likely compulsory redundancies and the destruction of a valuable community resource, which currently complements the University’s commitment to engagement with the people of Brighton and Hove. The Nursery service has been shown to be a shining example of the University’s duty to widen participation for those studying at degree level, by providing excellent quality childcare and early-years education.

The University leadership are posing this as a purely financial, business-led decision, based on the annual deficits made by the nursery prior to the pandemic. However, the nursery has run at an annual loss of around £83,000, which is a tiny fraction of the University’s £197 million turnover and much less than the Vice Chancellor’s current salary of around £240,000. The University continues to subsidise other activities, as all universities do, from student tuition fee income, which is the main source of income for virtually all higher education institutions.

The University’s sponsorship of academy schools has no benefit at all to current students, yet student fee income has been used to promote this despite local opposition from trade unionists, the local community and experts in the field of education.

UNISON says that closure of One World will lose much more than the small amount of cost that would be saved. The UNISON branch is campaigning against the closure and UNISON members at the University will be asked if they will support industrial action in opposition to the proposed closure and in support of those threatened with compulsory redundancy, if the University leadership does not see sense and change their plans.

We would ask that you raise this with Professor Debra Humphris, the Vice Chancellor and Mark Burch, Chair of the Board of Governors to express your opposition to the plans.

Details of the Board members are here:

[Board of Governors (brighton.ac.uk)](https://www.brighton.ac.uk/about-us/governance-and-structure/board-of-governors/index.aspx)

We would also like to be able to say publicly that you support our campaign and if necessary would be able to use whatever influence you have to prevent this senseless closure of such a valuable resource.

There’s more information here:

[Closure of One World Nursery would be a devastating loss to the local community | Article | News | UNISON South East](https://southeast.unison.org.uk/news/article/2021/04/closure-of-one-world-nursery-would-be-a-devastating-loss-to-the-local-community/)

And a petition against the closure here:

[Petition · University of Brighton executive board: Save One World Nursery · Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/university-of-brighton-executive-board-save-one-world-nursery)

Please feel free to pass this on to any contacts you have and ask people to sign the petition with a comment on why they are opposed to this.

Yours sincerely,

Your name