



Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

## **Strike action by members of the National Education Union**

Dear Parents/ Carers

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are three national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are likely to affect schools in this area are:

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains their reasons for taking strike action. It can be found at <https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view> if you wish to read it.

## **How will strike action affect St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School?**

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. This means that those teachers involved in the action will not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties on a strike day.

It is therefore necessary for me to consider the impact that industrial action will have on the operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike.

To determine whether this school can remain fully or partially open, a detailed risk assessment has been conducted. This considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As Acting Headteacher, I and the Chair of Governors have decided the school will be:

- Open to pupils in Nursery, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5
- Open to **all** children with an EHCP and/ a Social Worker
- Closed to pupils in Reception and Year 6 **on all four** strike days
- Closed to Year 4 on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March (due to part time teachers)

If your child is in Reception, Year 4 or Year 6 and is entitled to Free School Meals we are providing a packed lunch which can be collected from the school office. There will be a hot or cold option. Please contact the school office by 3pm on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January to order a lunch to collect for the first day of strike action.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is *very* unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

Yours faithfully,



Miss E Simmons  
Acting Headteacher

*Let Your Light Shine...*

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**Miss E. Simmons, Headteacher.**



**We are His body, living and learning as one.**

