



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

24th January, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: NEU National Industrial Action

I hope you and your families are well.

As mentioned in our short message to you last week, the National Education Union (NEU) has voted for national strike action for teaching staff on dates in February and March 2023. The scheduled days of the strike action for our part of the UK are:

- **Wednesday 1st February 2023**
- **Tuesday 28th February 2023**
- **Wednesday 15th March 2023**
- **Thursday 16th March 2023**

Teaching staff at our school have a legal right to take part in the planned strike action, however, it is important to emphasise that the dispute and strike action is not specific to our school. The industrial action is in relation to the NEU's dispute with the government over the nationally agreed pay rises when taking into account the pressures faced by staff with the increased cost of living which we are all experiencing. It is a national issue, affecting all schools in England.

There will be disruption to schools on the scheduled days but, at this stage, we do not know for certain the level of impact in our school from this planned strike action. To assist with our planning, we have asked teaching staff to confirm whether or not they intend to take part in strike action. There is no legal obligation for colleagues to respond, but we are hoping many will do so, so we have a better understanding of who intends to work on the planned strike days.

Please be assured that we shall do everything reasonably possible to keep the school open, provided that we are satisfied we have enough staff in school to comply with our legal obligations and duty of care to students and, provided we can ensure the health and safety of our students and staff team.

If we feel this is not possible and we need to consider a partial or full closure of the school next Wednesday, 1st February 2023, then we shall try and provide you with as much notice as possible of this decision. This could be a full school closure, or we may need to consider a partial school closure, reducing student numbers by limiting attendance on the above strike days to certain groups of students (for example, vulnerable students).

I apologise that I am not able to provide you with a clear position at this stage. We will provide you with an update later this week. In the meantime, you may wish to begin considering childcare arrangements for the above dates, in the event that school closure does become necessary.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Very best wishes,

Miss Patterson
Headteacher

