



Castledon School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

25th January 2023

Strike action by members of the National Education Union

I am writing to you about the forthcoming strike action by the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching 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 1st February 2023
- Wednesday 1st March 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

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 incumbent upon 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.

Although we have been provided with an initial idea of the number of staff who are eligible to take industrial action, we will not know which individual teachers are striking until the morning of Wednesday 1st February. This does, of course, make it almost impossible to plan ahead with any great level of certainty.

The safety of our pupils is paramount, and we have a duty to ensure that we can provide a safe and secure learning environment for them. As it stands, it is likely that we will not be in a position to open to all classes. With this in mind, I strongly suggest that you consider making alternative child care arrangements for this day as a precaution.

It is important to make you aware that we are not permitted to ask staff in the building to cover for striking colleagues, nor are striking colleagues obliged to set cover work.

Given that the situation is subject to change, I will confirm final arrangements as soon as I can so please do keep an eye on your emails.

Kind regards

S Holliday

Simon Holliday
Headteacher

