



Friday 20th January, 2023

Notification of Industrial Action

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware from the recent media coverage, National Education Union (NEU) have balloted their members with regards to taking industrial action over concerns relating to pay.

The planned strike dates that may affect our schools are as follows:

- 1st February 2023
- 28th February 2023
- 15th & 16th March 2023

The action is not against our school nor the Trust itself but is part of national industrial action organised by NEU.

There is no requirement for NEU to inform us of which members of staff will take action, as there is no obligation on members of the union to obey a strike call. However, in the interests of our children's safety and welfare I am requesting that staff colleagues advise me whether they intend to attend work on the planned strike days. If we have a high number of staff taking action it could possibly lead to either partial or full closure of the school.

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust is not allowed to close any of its schools in sympathy with the strike. However, our main concern is the welfare and safety of our students. The decision to close is never taken lightly but in the instance where a significant number of staff elect to take lawful industrial action, we may have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all of our students.

Therefore, this letter is being sent to you to give you an early warning that the Trust, Governors and I will need to consider in due course the action we will have to take, once we know how many staff are intending to take part in the strike.

We will continue to keep you informed via the school's website and by letter for those who do not have access to this site.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
CROFTDALE ROAD,
BLAYDON,
TYNE & WEAR,
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Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jillian Turner

Head Teacher

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