



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Duckpool Lane
Whickham
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE16 4HB

T: 0191 4205828

E: stmarysrcprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

W: www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mr J Wheatley

Friday 20th January 2023

Notification of Industrial Action

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

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

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

The action is not against our school, nor Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, 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 of the situation.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Wheatley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

