

**St Eugene’s Primary School**

Victoria Bridge

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19th April 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**RE: FULL DAY OF STRIKE ACTION BY TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS ON 26TH APRIL**

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action planned by the five teaching unions including the Principal’s union in Northern Ireland. 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 if no agreement is made with the Management Side before the 26th of April.

**How will strike action affect St Eugene’s Primary School?**

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Staff involved in the action will, therefore, not undertake any duties on 26th April and not receive any pay. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, other 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.

**In consultation with the National Association of Head Teachers, I have determined that our school, like all others in Northern Ireland, will be unable to open to pupils on Wednesday 26th of April.**

This is a very unusual circumstance and is the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by teachers and school leaders. School leaders and teachers are in dispute with the employing authorities, the Department of Education and Government over workload and pay, after over a decade of wage erosion. We call upon the Management Side to resolve this dispute and in turn avoid any further strike action.

NAHT, the school leaders’ union, believes that society demands that our children and young people have the best people in the key education roles within our schools. To attract them, keep them and treat them fairly, we must ensure that school workers at all levels are fairly remunerated, and that workload is reasonable and manageable. What’s more, the NAHT expects that our schools are adequately funded to provide the highest possible standard of educational experiences for our children and that our system ensures that the needs of our most vulnerable children, particularly our children with additional needs, are appropriately met, giving them every possible opportunity to learn, grow, develop, have fun and flourish.

Taking strike action is not something that any member of staff wants to do, we are disappointed that the situation has escalated to this point. If the situation is resolved prior to the 26th of April I will write to advise you of this.

Yours sincerely

Laura Gormley

**Principal**