



# ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



" A school at the heart of the community,  
community at the heart of the school "

11 January 2024

Dear Parents & Guardians

**Re: Planned full day strike action by teachers and school leaders on Thursday  
18 January 2024**

As I am sure you are aware, teaching unions along with almost every other public sector union in Northern Ireland are taking part in a full day of strike action on Thursday 18 January. This will have a huge impact on staffing levels in our school.

## **How will strike action affect St Joseph's?**

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Everyone involved in the action will, therefore, not teach class(es) or undertake any other duties on the strike day.

In St Joseph's, the safety and well-being of our pupils are of paramount importance. In light of this planned disruption a detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that the planned strike action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors to St Joseph's in order to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As a result of this Risk Assessment, the decision has been made to close St Joseph's on Thursday 18 January 2024.

Clearly this is a difficult situation and is the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by teachers and school leaders. Taking strike action is not something that anyone undertakes lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.

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The responsibility to resolve this dispute lies with the Department of Education and our local government.

We will endeavour to keep you as up to date as we possibly can re further strike action.

Your continued understanding and support are greatly appreciated at this difficult time.

Warmest regards.

*Laura Fitzsimons*

Mrs Laura Fitzsimons  
Principal

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