



19th January 2023

STRIKE ACTION

Dear Parents,

Recent news reports will have brought to your attention the fact that the NEU announced on Monday that members have voted for strike action. The union is asking their members to strike over pay and school **may be affected** on the following dates

Wednesday 1st February

Wednesday 1st March

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March

The NEU is one of three unions who represent teachers and therefore this strike will not affect all teachers. All the teachers at St Giles' and St George's are dedicated professionals who frequently go above and beyond to support and educate the children in their care, they are the last people who would wish to disrupt a child's education.

The reasons behind the strike action go far beyond the need for teachers to earn a living wage to support their own families, there is a staffing and budget crisis within education which needs to be addressed.

- 1) If more teachers don't enter and stay in the profession, the next generation of children will have to be taught by unqualified teachers.
- 2) Inadequate funding from the government means that teachers are spending hundreds of pounds of their own money on rewards, experiences and resources to ensure that children can experience new things and develop a love for learning.
- 3) Funding has been cut in all areas linked to education, no Educational Psychologists, CAMHS referrals which take years, depleted school nurse service, lack of SEND provision and a social services system which is at breaking point. Post COVID the needs of children have risen dramatically and teachers are being asked to fill these gaps and children deserve better access to services.

The government needs to address all of these issues if children are to be able to reach their full potential. The rate of pay for staff is actually only a small part of the problem and for many schools is a double edge sword as should the Government agree a pay rise for teachers that money will have to be found from school budgets which the government will not increase.

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The school will support staff in their bid to make a better education system for all children whilst ensuring that our most vulnerable children are protected.

Thus if staff notify me they are to strike I will inform parents as soon as possible of their child's class closure for that day. Any family with a child with an EHCP or safeguarding plan will be contacted individually to offer alternative provision and all those children in receipt of Free School meals will have a meal provided for them on that day. We will endeavour to notify parents of any closure at least 1 week before.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'E. Lopez', written in a cursive style.

Mr E Lopez
Chair of Governors