



St. Columba's Primary School

2 Duncastle Road,
Newbuildings,
BT47 2QS
Phone: 028 71 347190
Principal: Mrs Caroline Callan

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Full day of strike action on 18th January 2024

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the five teaching unions in Northern Ireland, unions representing classroom assistants, school meals, school transport and as you will have seen many other unions across 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.

How will strike action affect St Columba's Primary School?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Staff members involved in this industrial action will therefore not undertake any duties on 18th January 2024. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, 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. The Board of Governors has determined that the school will be closed for all pupils on Thursday 18th January 2024 and will reopen as normal on Friday 19th January 2024.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. This is a very unusual circumstance and is the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by all those involved in our children's education. Taking strike action is not something that anyone would undertake 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.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Caroline Callan