



Full day of strike action by staff on Thursday 18th January 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by teaching and non teaching unions 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.

How will strike action affect St Columban's PS?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Staff involved in the action will, therefore, not teach their class or undertake any other duties on **Thursday 18th January 2024**.

A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that 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.

As the Principal, I and the Chairman of the Board of Governors have determined 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. A strike by staff is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any staff member would undertake lightly.

It is also hoped that this action will also highlight the huge underfunding that currently exists in the education sector.

Yours sincerely

Mr L. Magee
Principal