



Hall Green School An Academy

17 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Planned strike action at Hall Green School on Wednesday 1 March 2023

I write to update you on the progress of our contingency planning during the forthcoming strike action in schools.

Background

We have had confirmation from NEU that members of the union intend to take formal industrial action by participating in a strike which will take place on Wednesday 1 March 2023.

The strike action is in relation to a national dispute around teacher and school staff pay. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain the dispute and to also outline the school's plans during the strike.

What is the dispute which has led to the strike about?

As you may know, over the summer the Department for Education agreed to a 5% pay rise for teachers. Teaching unions across England and Scotland, including NEU are in dispute with the Department for Education regarding their request for teachers pay to keep up with inflation and the cost of living, as well as the fact that the pay rise is not covered by existing school budgets. This lack of additional funding impacts the allocation of resources to things such as books and other resources since the start of this academic year.

What will happen at the school during the strike?

- **School is open to Year 7 and Year 11 and they are required to attend as normal.** Year 7 and Year 11 lessons will be running as normal periods 1-5. We have also planned for some Year 11 pupils to work specifically on controlled assessment work. It is vital that Year 7 and Year 11 pupils are in attendance in line with the DfE requirement for pupils to be in school on the days it is open.
- **School is closed to pupils in Years 8-10.** Teachers will set work for their classes on the day on Class Charts which should be completed by all pupils. Where possible, teachers will inform pupils of this work prior to the day. We recognise that not all pupils have access to the internet or a computer and so work set will generally not involve the use of these things. Please do contact school if you wish to receive alternative work.
- **Children of critical workers.** We will endeavour to provide places for all pupils who require one due to parents being critical workers. If you wish to request a place, please email enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk or telephone the main school office **by 3.00 pm on Monday 27 February**. We will confirm availability of a place by Tuesday 28 February at the very latest.

- The **SENDCo** and **Welfare Team** may also contact parents/carers directly of those pupils with additional needs to discuss specific arrangements. If you do not receive contact but wish to discuss further how the school can support on this day, please do contact the school.
- **Free school meals entitlement:** Please do contact us via email or phone **by 3pm on Monday 27 February** if you wish for arrangements to be made for your child if they are in Years 8-10 and entitled to free school meals.

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is where staff gather near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils and parents that as a school we support our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are courteous and respectful as they would be on any other day.

We would also like to remind you that it is unlawful for people who are not members of staff at the school (or their union representatives) to join a picket line. We therefore ask parents or carers or pupils to refrain from joining any picket line.

We have tried to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of these circumstances. We appreciate that a partial closure may be disruptive to you, for which we apologise. We hope that you understand we have not taken these decisions lightly and had to take decisions to secure the health and safety of your child and any non-striking staff in consideration of anticipated heavily reduced numbers of staffing. **Please note that these plans are in place for Wednesday 1 March. Decisions regarding the other strike days will be communicated as soon as we can.**

Lastly, we want to take this opportunity to reiterate that your child's education is important to *all* staff at Hall Green School. We hope that by putting in place these contingency plans we can limit any impact the strike could have to your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Miss K Slater
Headteacher

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