



Strike action by members of the National Education Union



As outlined in last week's school newsletter the National Education Union (NEU), one of the main teaching trade unions, will be taking strike action during February and March. Whilst you may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I have posted a short message on Studybugs, I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

There are three national and one regional day strikes planned. The strike days that are likely to affect schools in this area are:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Tuesday 28 February 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

The NEU has posted a document for parents, carers and grandparents that explains their reasons for taking strike action. It can be found at <https://neu.org.uk/media/24511/view> if you wish to read it.

How will strike action affect Halton Lodge Primary School?

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

It is therefore incumbent upon the headteacher to consider the impact that industrial action will have on the operation of the school. One of the key issues is to assess whether there are sufficient staff available for the school to remain open, or partially open, during a strike.

To determine whether this school can remain fully or partially open, a detailed risk assessment has been conducted. This 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 headteacher, I have decided the school will be:

- Open only to children in The Fawns and Year 5 pupils, but closed to all other pupils.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A national strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the days that they are on strike.

A message to parents and carers

Why are teachers going on strike?

TEACHERS WHO ARE members of the National Education Union (NEU) will be taking national strike action on Wednesday 1st February.

We do not want to strike, but the government have given us no choice. We are striking for education and we hope you will support us, despite the inconvenience it will cause.

We are taking strike action because we are concerned that cuts to teachers' pay, and lack of funding for schools, are causing a crisis in education.

- The value of teachers and support staff pay has fallen by 20% since 2010.
- This has caused a crisis in recruitment and retention.
- More teachers, and school leaders, than ever are leaving their jobs and

the government cannot recruit enough teachers to replace them.

● Funding for schools has not kept in line with rising costs.

● This means that:

- many schools face difficulties finding the teachers they need;
- SEND children are not getting the support they need;
- Schools are spending less on important equipment and resources;
- schools are cutting back on extra-curricular clubs and classes.

This cannot go on, for the sake of education the government must change its policy on pay and funding.

We have tried talking to the government - we have provided evidence about this crisis to them year after year, but they have ignored our warnings.

That is why we have reluctantly made the decision to take strike action.

We are calling on the government to increase pay for teachers and support staff, but they must also increase funding for schools.

We are asking parents and carers to:

- **support** our strike action and our campaign to boost funding for education.
- **talk** to teachers at your child's school to find out more about our campaign and how you can support us.
- **contact** your MP and local councillors and tell them that you support NEU members taking strike action.



Halton Healthy Schools - Parents News

Halton Healthy Schools now produce an online newsletter for parent and carers. This can be used accessed using the following link:

<https://padlet.com/HaltonHIT/kxkmsfbkonytivbs>

Please click on the link and have a look.