

St Joseph's Primary School



Inspire, Believe, Achieve

Thursday 9th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that Unison, one of the Unions which represents our Ancillary and Auxiliary members of staff (School Caretakers, Secretaries, Classroom Assistants, Dinner Ladies etc) has been involved in Action Short of Strike since early October.

This has now escalated, and the Union has instructed its members to withdraw their labour for a full day on Thursday 16th November 2023

Non-teaching staff are vital to the life of our schools, and it is only with their support that schools can, as a team, operate effectively and we therefore support their call for fair remuneration.

As each school has a different composition of non-teaching staff, carrying out a range of duties dependent upon the needs of the pupils, it will be necessary for each school to carry out its own individual risk assessment to determine whether it will be possible to operate on the day when action is called, bearing in mind the health and safety of all pupils.

I have consequently had to take the difficult decision to close the school for all pupils that day based on a Risk Assessment regarding:

- Health and Safety (adult pupil ratio).
- The lack of adequate adult supervision of pupils at breakfast club, breaktime, lunchtime and afterschool club.
- The lack of school dinners.
- The opening and closing of the school.

I will endeavour to keep you up to date with relevant information as it becomes available.

Yours sincerely

Mrs F Macfarlane.

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