



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary Academy

Part of the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy

Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus.

(cf John 8:12)



Wednesday 25th January 2023

NEU National Strike Day – 1st February 2023 – update for parents

Dear Parent / Guardian / Carer,

As you may be aware from the news, from letters from other schools or just through word of mouth, the members of the NEU (National Education Union) voted in favour of taking strike action to hold the Government to account for the falling levels of pay for teachers.

Why have NEU members voted to take strike action?

Pay for experienced teachers has fallen by one fifth in real terms since 2010. And now Britain is facing the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation. Yet while your bills keep going up, your pay is not keeping pace.

Energy bills are soaring, inflation is at 12.3 per cent (August 2022) – a forty-year high. But the Government is suggesting experienced teachers' pay should only go up by five per cent this year. This is a seven per cent cut.

Long hours and poor pay are the main reasons teachers are leaving the profession in their droves. This Government is presiding over one of the worst recruitment and retention crises ever seen in education.

Children are losing out because there are not enough teachers. Even when there is a teacher in the classroom, increasingly they are not qualified in the subject they are teaching. Parents and grandparents hear their children and grandchildren talking about 'new' teachers in the middle of the school year; of lessons being 'covered' by supply teachers, of teachers leaving. Lack of qualified teachers harms the education that children and young people receive.

To save education, we must take action to ensure that educators get an inflation-plus pay increase.

St Paulinus staff are fully in support of those teachers who have chosen to strike over pay. We strongly believe that things need to change in education in order to improve staff retention and well-being. The teachers in St Paulinus love their jobs, but teaching is not an easy profession and comes along with many outside pressures, very long hours during term time and holiday times are often used to catch up on work or plan for the next term. These pressures and expectations only seem to be increasing as the years go by and that can often lead to schools and children losing good staff. We ask all parents to help education and their children by standing with teachers and supporting them in asking the government for change.

As individuals, the staff at St Paulinus have thought long and hard about whether they will go on strike on Wednesday 1st February 2023. Although they fully support the teachers that will go out, many have decided that, on this occasion, they will remain in school. **Therefore, St. Paulinus will be open as normal on 1st February 2023.** They have taken this decision because they want the best for the children and they hope that all parents will support the teachers' fight in improving the working conditions for all school staff.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Hayes, Headteacher

'An outstanding school, which is deeply committed to the Catholic mission... this school inspires all within this faith community to live life to the full.' Ofsted 2017

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