



MAGHERAFELT PRIMARY SCHOOL

02879632822

PRINCIPAL

Mr I Somerville B Ed Hons PQH(NI)

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Rev Dr J Curry

MAGHERAFELT PRIMARY SCHOOL

32 Castledawson Road, Magherafelt

BT456PA

Monday 6 February 2023

Re: Half Day Strike Action by Teachers on 21 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the teaching unions in Northern Ireland. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, so I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

How will strike action affect Magherafelt Primary School?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Teachers involved in the action will, therefore, not teach their classes or undertake any other duties before 12.00 noon on the strike day.

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 have determined that there is no alternative but to close school to pupils until 12:00pm on Tuesday 21 February. The Board of Governors have been informed. This will not impact attendance, even for those who are unable to get in for the half day. When the bell rings, children should proceed to classrooms via the main school door.

Lunch will be served as usual from 12:10 pm and dinners can be booked as normal until 9:30 am via the school money app. We will be asking the children on Monday to indicate if they are planning to take dinners the following day to enable the kitchen to have accurate numbers for their meal preparations.

Buses and any afternoon clubs will operate as normal in the afternoon but there will be no morning buses.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A 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 period that they are on strike.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ian Somerville
Principal