



Wednesday 25th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union have declared strike action, which will take place on the dates below:

- **Wednesday 1st February 2023**
- **Tuesday 28th February 2023**
- **Wednesday and Thursday 15th & 16th March 2023**

I am sorry to inform you that Gateacre School will be closed to all students on these dates. We are asking you not to send your child into school on these days.

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the trade unions and the government over teachers unfunded pay award and the impact it has on recruitment and retention of staff, and not because of any issues at our school.

We have not taken this decision lightly and risk assessed a variety of other options. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students, and believe that we would be unable to provide this with the staff we have available on those days.

Under trade union directives, no additional work for those strike days will be set, however, teachers may wish to direct students to revision guides and various appropriate revision websites before those strike days.

Students in receipt of free school meals (FSM) are entitled to food on the days when the school is closed. In order that we provide sufficient meals and prevent unnecessary waste, could you please contact the school on **Monday 31st January 2023** to indicate that you would wish a packed lunch to be provided for your son or daughter on **all four strike days**. Please could you specify any dietary requirements when contacting school. On confirmation of that request could you collect the packed lunch from reception between **12:00pm and 1:00pm on each of those four strike days**.

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

We are working closely with our staff trade union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further.

If you have any questions, please contact admin@gateacre.org or on the telephone number at the bottom of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Gareth Jones
Headteacher