

25 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared seven days of strike action over the next two months. The 4 days that will affect our school are as follows:

1. **Wednesday 1 February 2023**
2. **Thursday 2 March 2023**
3. **Wednesday 15 March 2023**
4. **Thursday 16 March 2023**

As the Headteacher of the school, I have to determine the number of striking staff members on each of these days to ensure that the effective and safe provision of education continues to be achieved. I will consider each day in advance.

I'm sorry to inform you that Stormont House School will be **closed to students on Wednesday 1 February 2023**. We are asking you not to send your child into school on this day. This is because I am only expecting me and one deputy to be in school but none of the other teaching staff. We are not yet clear how many support staff will join the teachers on strike, nor how many will need to remain at home because their children's schools are also closed.

We have not taken this decision lightly. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students but feel that we would be unable to provide this with the staff we have available. We will keep Local Authority Transport teams informed.

I'm sorry that you will have to **make alternative arrangements for your child on 1 February**, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating even where there is some sympathy for the underlying reasons for the action. It is my job to make the decisions necessary based on the best information to hand rather than to persuade you of any viewpoint. I appreciate that there are a wide range of views and information is presented in different ways to support those views. The NEU explain why they are taking this action [here](#).

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

I will, of course, contact parents and carers to remind you of the strike action and school closure via text and email, and will give you as much notice as possible about arrangements for future days of strike action.

If you have any questions, please contact the school in the usual ways.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin McDonnell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end of the last name.

Kevin McDonnell
Headteacher