



Learning together, growing together

Dorin Park School and Specialist SEN College

30th January 2023

Strike Clarification – Wednesday 1st February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to clarify arrangements for the NEU Teachers' Strike Action on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

While the planned action is as a result of a national dispute between the unions and the government, and not against Dorin Park School, it is important that we respond accordingly in the interests of the students whilst respecting the rights of all staff.

As we communicated last week, **Dorin Park School will be closed to all but a small group of our most vulnerable pupils on Wednesday 1st February**. This decision is based on a risk assessment of the number of staff in school and the needs of children and families. **All pupils on our vulnerable list have been notified via text.**

Our teachers have kindly been clear with us about their intentions, and this has helped us to plan for the day taking into account the complex needs of our pupils and their families. This risk assessment also takes into account the availability of support staff whose young children are affected by strike action in their own schools, and the current level of staff sickness absence.

As I'm sure you know, the vast majority of schools locally are closing some or all of their classes as a consequence of the strike, and being an SEN school makes all these elements harder to manage than a typical mainstream school and our priority is the health and safety of the students first and foremost.

We appreciate that industrial action is disruptive. We will of course continue to monitor the arrangements in place and make modifications where possible to improve support for pupils wherever possible for future strike days.

To this end, whilst we know that parents will support the strike action, as you understand that the continual underfunding of schools has had a huge impact not just on staff but on pupils and families too, please advise school if you feel we have overlooked an aspect of your child's or family's vulnerability, to enable us to take this into account when planning for **Tuesday 28th February** and **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March**.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Lee
Headteacher

Head Teacher – Lucy Lee

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