

20 January 2023

Dear parent/carers

Teacher Strikes

You may be aware from media coverage that teaching members of the National Education Union (NEU) have declared strike action. The government and union leaders are continuing to hold discussions with the aim of avoiding industrial action. However, as it stands, the first day of potential strike action is Wednesday 1 February with further strike action to follow on 2, 15 and 16 March. The strike is happening as a result of a national dispute between the union and the government over pay and funding, and not because of any issues at our Trust.

I am writing to give you as much notice as possible that your child's learning may be disrupted during this time. We will, though, be taking all necessary steps to ensure our schools remain open where possible. This may include a number of options short of closing schools and your Headteacher will provide details of any relevant local arrangements over the coming days.

We will be working with our regional and local staff union representatives on this situation.

WeST of course recognises and respects the right of our staff to participate in industrial action and would ask that all members of our community continue to treat each other with respect during this dispute. I understand that this situation may be challenging and apologise in advance for any potential disruption caused.

Best wishes



Rob Haring
CEO
Westcountry Schools Trust