



# Ebrington Primary & Nursery School

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Principal: Mr B F Guthrie, BA Hons ED PQH

7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent

As you may well already be aware, teaching unions have been engaged in Industrial Action and action short of strike action during the course of this academic year. The main teaching unions have now instructed their members to engage in a half day's strike action on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

The staff at Ebrington Primary School and Nursery Unit feel they should participate in the current action and many of them will be taking part in the strike action on that day.

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 class(es) 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 and the Board of Governors have determined that the school will be closed on the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> February and will open for all pupils at 12.15pm. Due to health and safety concerns, no pupil should be on the school site before 12:05pm. Pupils should go directly to their pod doors between 12:05 and 12:15pm. School dinners will be served after registration. Please ensure these are booked on the cashless system the day before.**

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.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused and would really appreciate your support by asking you to contact your local MLA, write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Permanent Secretary for Education, Minister of Education, Department of Education or your local MP, letting them know how this is affecting you and requesting that they deal with the issue immediately. You will find contact details for each of these people overleaf.

Kind regards,

B Guthrie  
Principal

Mark Brown  
Permanent Secretary for Education  
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#### **Local MLAs:**

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