



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

January 2023

Industrial Action by Teachers

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well.

You may be aware from reports in the media that members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted for strike action. Other teaching unions (NASWT and NAHT) did not receive the required number of ballot papers and so will not be striking at this point. The NEU has identified four days of strike of which will affect Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy.

These are:

Wednesday 1 February 2023

Wednesday 1 March 2023

Wednesday and Thursday 15/16 March 2023

As a Trust, we have already been in close dialogue with our Headteachers to support them in their planning for the strikes. We will continue this close contact in the coming weeks in order to reduce the impact on pupils' learning as much as we can.

In line with Government guidance, it is our intention to keep schools open; however, in some schools, it may be the case that not all classes / year groups will be able to come into school, depending on which teachers in each school do strike. Schools may be able to give more information nearer the strike days, but unions do not disclose which staff are in which unions and the staff themselves do not have to tell us in advance if they are going to strike. Where possible, I would urge you to arrange childcare provision for your child(ren) in case they are not able to come to school. It may also be necessary to operate a different timetable for those pupils who are in school.

It is with regret that I bring you this difficult news as we start a New Year and new term in our schools; however, our aim is to keep you, the parents and carers, updated throughout this period of uncertainty. We will do our utmost to give you as much notice as possible, if we do need to close individual classes or year groups. Nevertheless, please be prepared for short notice on possible class or year group closures.

We will contact you with further details as and when we have them. God bless and take care.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Gritton
Chief Executive Officer