



Garfield Primary
Today's children, tomorrow's future.

25th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Notification of strike action – Garfield will be closed to all pupils on Wednesday 1st Feb 2023

We have been informed by **NEU Trade Union** that there will be a day of strike action by their teacher members on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**. The dispute is with the Secretary of State for Education with regards to the NEU view that there has been a '*Failure to provide a fully funded above-inflation pay rise (as measured by September 2022 RPI). A fully funded pay rise is one that is funded by additional resources sufficient to provide the above-inflation pay rise*' (NEU).

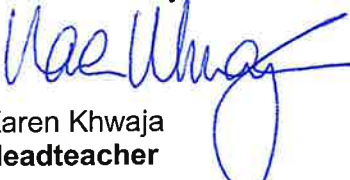
As Headteacher, I have risk assessed the impact of the strike action on the school and have decided that the **school will have to close to pupils**. Due to the high numbers of staff involved, there will be serious operational difficulties. This decision has not been taken lightly but I know that there will not be enough staff in school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the pupils. I have also taken into consideration the non-statutory guidance provided by the DfE (Department for Education).

Although the strike action is detailed as being about pay, many teachers are striking about much more than personal take home pay. You may already be aware that education funding has been significantly reduced (in real terms) over the years with many schools now in a deficit. There are concerns about recruitment and retention of teachers and school staff, and around whether there is suitable provision to meet the need of pupils with special educational needs nationally. These are just some of the issues that are causing a concern for staff who work in schools.

I know that the teachers at Garfield work incredibly hard for all our pupils and are dedicated professionals. Whilst I appreciate that this strike action may cause you inconvenience, I know that they have not taken this decision lightly. We work hard to be a school community in harmony and so I thank you in advance for your understanding.

The school will open as normal on Thursday 2nd February.

Yours sincerely,


Karen Khwaja
Headteacher