25th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that following a ballot of NEU union members, it has been confirmed yesterday that teachers in this union will be holding four days of strikes in the North West. The DfE tell us that this action is the result of a dispute between the NEU and the Government (and does not reflect a dispute within individual schools) It has been confirmed yesterday that the strikes will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023, Tuesday 28 February 2023, Wednesday 15 March 2023, Thursday 16 March 2023. This means that **we will not be able to open** to all students.

There are a number of other teaching unions that are not due to strike at this point, as members did not vote in favour of this action in sufficient numbers. Therefore, the impact on schools is likely to vary from school to school. This is because each school has a different proportion of staff who belong to the NEU. Approximately 67% of teachers at St Joseph’s are part of this union.

I have undertaken a risk assessment for the school to safeguard children and there will be insufficient numbers of teaching staff present to have all children on site safely. I have committed to keeping our school open for the most vulnerable children and we will invite some young people into this provision but if you feel that your child is vulnerable if they were to work from home on these dates and would like to request a place, please complete this online form so that we can plan the staffing for this:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sHAoOFeTq0ONO\_0gvTFzyl1aqAsCO9NKjXsSdB3996xUOVdHTlVMMlczOE1GVDNNNzQ2SDROUkNYNS4u

Teachers who are not striking will set work on TEAMs/Epraise. Students should complete this work from home. We will also signpost young people to resources that can be used to supplement their learning if they complete the work that is set. Please ensure that your child is able to access Epraise/Teams via RM Unify so that they are able to continue with their learning on this day. If you can foresee any issues with accessing online learning then please email Mrs McDonnell as soon as possible: amcdonnell@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk

I appreciate this could have a knock-on impact to your own work and family schedule. I understand that it will be inconvenient for many parents and carers, as well as disrupting the education of students.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kind regards

Mr T McCabe