

ELMFIELD SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

PRIMARY & EARLY YEARS

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SECONDARY

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23rd February 2023

Dear parents/carers,

As you may recall the NEU have declared strike action, which is continuing. The next will take place on Thursday 2nd March 2023. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school.

Striking is the right of every teacher who is part of a union and is a personal choice which we respect as a school. By law employees who are striking are not required to inform their employer whether or not they are striking. Consequently, it means that we will not know our exact staffing position until the day of the strike and so must plan ahead accordingly.

Therefore, I'm sorry to inform you that Elmfield School for Deaf Children will be partially closed on March 2nd. We are closed to all pupils on the Primary site. We are closed to pupils Y7-10 on the Secondary site. If your child is in these years DO NOT send your child into school on this day. Y11 pupils are expected to attend secondary for revision and coursework day.

We have not taken this decision lightly. But due to long distances which our pupils travel, and the uncertainty about staffing, we need to make this difficult decision. We remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils, and feel that we would be potentially unable to provide this with the staff we could have available.

I'm sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice, and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating, and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with respect.

We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform you as soon as possible if arrangements change further in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact me via the school office email.

Kind regards,

Kate Persaud

