



**PERSONAL**

Parents/Carers  
SEAX Trust

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Our Ref: RS/KS

24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent or Carer

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some factual information on the situation relating to industrial (strike) action by members of one of the teaching trade unions.

We are working closely with the Headteachers of all the schools in the SEAX Trust to ensure that you receive information as it becomes available. Each school will be affected differently and so it is the Headteacher of individual schools who will communicate with you about the impact of any strike action on your child's school. At the moment they are working with us to compile the information they need to make plans for the industrial action days announced so far.

As you may have seen in the news, on Monday 16 January 2023, the National Education Union (NEU) announced that following a ballot of all its members, it had reached the threshold to hold industrial action. It has announced four days of industrial action for all its members. The dates that affect your child's school are:

- Wednesday 1 February 2023
- Wednesday 1 March 2023
- Wednesday 15 March 2023
- Thursday 16 March 2023

Information about the action taken by the NEU can be found on its website:

<https://neu.org.uk/>



Each school in our Trust and across the country will be affected differently by the strike action, depending on the number of staff who are members of the NEU, the number that decide to strike on the dates above and other issues of absence the school may be experiencing, such as staff illness. We will work with Headteachers to undertake a risk assessment to determine what education provision it may be able to make for your child on the days the strikes are scheduled to be held.

The Department for Education (DfE) has asked Headteachers to prioritise attendance for examination year groups, vulnerable pupils, and children of critical workers. Schools are not required to teach the national curriculum on strike days.

The Trust, along with your individual Headteacher, will work together to ensure that you are kept fully informed of the situation as far in advance as possible. However, you will understand that for safety reasons, provision must depend on the number of teachers and support staff available on any given strike day. Headteachers can ask their staff in advance who will be taking strike action; however, NEU members do not have to provide this information until the actual day of the strike action, and there are legal limitations on who can be asked to cover for striking colleagues. We will do all we can to give you as much notice as possible if your child is likely to be affected by industrial action in their school.

Your individual Headteacher will write to you nearer the time to outline the arrangements that they will be putting in place to manage your child's education whilst the industrial action is underway.

If you have any questions about how this will affect your child(ren's) school, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

Yours faithfully

*Ruth Sturdy*

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CEO, SEAX Trust

For and on behalf of SEAX Trust