



'Every Child Matters'

St Mary's High School Downpatrick

Principal: Ms R McLaughlin B.Ed MSc PQH(NI)



Celebrating 65 Years of Education
1957 - 2023

10th November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Planned Strike Action on Thursday 16th November 2023

I am writing to you about the forthcoming strike action by the four non-teaching trade unions. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wanted to inform you about the impact that this is likely to have at our school.

How will strike action affect St Mary's High School?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. It is expected that the industrial action will have an impact on Classroom Assistant cover. The school meals provision will be disrupted.

A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As the Principal, I and the Board of Governors have determined the school will be:

- Open as normal for all students
- **There will be no canteen facilities at break or lunch time for all students. All students will be required to bring something for their break and a packed lunch.**

Clearly, this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.

Yours sincerely

Ms McLaughlin
Principal



*Spirit of Catholic Education
Award 2022*

