

Date: 17th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Industrial Action – Teaching Unions

You may be aware from coverage in the media, that some teaching unions including the largest, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) have indicated their intention to take strike action on Tuesday 31 January 2023 across all Highland Council schools. This action is part of a national dispute regarding pay.

The safe supervision of children and young people is of the utmost importance and given that we anticipate significantly reduced numbers of both management and teaching staff in schools and early learning and childcare settings, a decision has been made to close all schools to pupils. I apologise for the inconvenience this will cause, however it is hoped that by communicating this decision early that it will allow parents/carers to plan ahead.

While the council has been formally notified by teacher unions of their intention to strike, if there are any developments at a national level that averts strike action taking place, you will be notified of this through the council website www.highland.gov.uk our social media platforms, as well as your child's usual school communication channels.

In summary, on Tuesday 31 January 2023:

- All primary schools including local authority ELC and out of school care setting will be closed to pupils.
- All secondary schools will be closed to pupils.
- All special schools and off-site provision will be closed to pupils.
- A BACS payment will be made for those children and young people entitled to a free school meal based on low income (not universal entitlement).
- School Crossing Patrols will not operate on this day.
- School Transport will not operate on this day.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Grant
Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning