

# Castleman Academy Trust

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Dear All,

31 January 2023

Over the past weeks, we have been monitoring the situation with regard to numbers of staff striking. This has been a difficult task as staff are under no obligation to inform us of their intentions, nor are we legally allowed to ask them. It has always been our intention to remain open to as many pupils as possible.

Nevertheless, Headteachers have risk assessed the staffing levels in their schools for Wednesday, 1st February and have had to make decisions based on information available to us at this time, about availability of cover and pupil to adult ratios.

Therefore, at present, the following arrangements are in place at Parley First School on Wednesday, 1st of February.

Following consultations with all teaching staff at Parley First School, they have indicated that although they support the principles of the strike action they have decided not to strike on this occasion and will work as usual within their contracted hours and job descriptions. We expect the school to be open to all year groups, including the "Peardrops" before and after school provision. After school sports clubs, Yoga and Tennis, will also continue as usual as will our additional music lessons for children during the day. We expect the school to function as usual with no disruption to children's education.

Please be aware that the situation may change. There may be further disruption to inform you of in the morning as more staff may strike. We will of course endeavour to let you know as soon as possible, but it is prudent that you have alternative childcare arrangements in place, in case.

Some staff might form a picket line outside the school. A picket line is gathering of staff near the entrance to a workplace to protest in person, they may be holding notice boards or banners. If that is the case, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students and parents that as a school we respect our staff's legal right to strike. Please ensure that any interactions you have with staff are as courteous and respectful as they are on any other day.

At this stage, we have not made any decisions regarding the remaining days of proposed industrial action. We will continue to follow national guidance and make decisions about each individual planned day, closer to the time.

I understand the concerns expressed by many of you and I am grateful for your understanding and support.

We will update you in the morning of any further changes, as early as we possibly can.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Rhonda Moore  
Chief Executive Officer



Ferndown  
Middle School

