



Dear Parents and Carers,

POTENTIAL STRIKE ACTION – THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2022

The SSTA and NASUWT Teaching Unions have called a strike within the Aberdeen City area on 8th December 2022 in pursuit of their national pay claim. This will reduce the number of headteachers, depute headteachers, principal teachers and classroom teachers available to work on the day.

Following a robust assessment process I write to inform you that given the high level of uncertainty around the number of teaching staff who will be available on the day, we have taken the decision to close city secondary schools to pupils in S1 - S4 and only open them to young people in S5 and S6. At this moment in time, all Primary Schools will be able to open as normal on the 8th December.

Implications of strike action for those attending school on the 8th

The number of staff available to schools will only be fully known on the day of strike action and as a result, parents and young people should be aware that some timetabled classes for S5 and S6 may not be able to operate as usual. If this is the case young people will be advised to study for prelims independently and it would be helpful if young people could bring study materials with them in case they are needed.

We believe that our primary schools will be able to open fully on the 8th. However, the number of staff available in each school will only be known on the day. If there are insufficient staff available to operate safely the school Groupcall system will be used to alert parents to the situation. We will do all we can to avoid this situation and prevent last minute changes.

Access to school

There may be picket lines in operation outside of the school but please be assured that there will be clear access for parents, carers and young people. In line with the overall guidance for industrial action, the expectation throughout strike action is for an environment and behaviours of mutual respect.

Access to digital learning through E-Sgoil

E-Sgoil has developed into a nationwide community for online learning and teaching and has a large number of resources that can be accessed for learners of all ages. Access to these online resources can be found on the link below if you wish to provide some learning activities to your children during this time. [Digital learning from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar | e-Sgoil](#)

Free school meals provision

If your young person is in receipt of free school meals under universal credit, you will be provided with a bank transfer to the cost of one meal. If your bank details are not held by the service, this will be received in cheque form through the post as soon as possible.

We realise that this decision will have implications for your family. There are so many unknowns at present and we are keen to give you a clear picture of the impact of the potential strike action on the 8th December as far in advance as possible. If the situation on the day is not as predicted, we may have to reduce the number of young people in school further. Please be assured that we will advise you of any further changes as soon as known and do all we can to limit our need to do this.

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding and our apologies for the inconvenience caused.

Eleanor Sheppard

Chief Education Officer