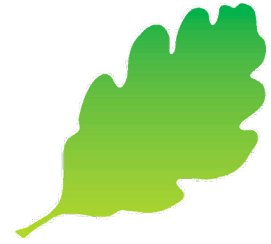


People & Partnerships

Midlothian Council
Fairfield House
8 Lothian Road
Dalkeith
EH22 3ZG

Executive Director
Fiona Robertson

Midlothian



17 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Planned strike action by teachers – Thursday 26 January 2023

As a deal was not met in the latest round of talks last week, the planned 16 days of action announced by the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) will go ahead affecting two local authorities each day. As a result **all Midlothian schools, including ASN provisions, are expected to close to pupils on Thursday 26 January 2023** unless an agreement is reached before then. All local authority early learning and childcare settings will also close with the exception of Scots Corner and Vogrie nurseries. Out of school clubs and breakfast clubs operated by external organisations within primary school buildings should be open as normal unless otherwise advised by the organisation/operator.

On top of the 16 days planned action, the EIS has announced an extra 22 days of industrial action affecting all Scottish schools and settings on **28 February and 1 March 2023**, followed by a further 20 days between 13 March and 21 April 2023. Further details will follow but I thought advance notice might be helpful.

National negotiations are still ongoing, and if agreement is reached, it is possible that strike action could be called off. In this event, we will notify you as soon as possible with updates on the council's website, social media and via schools. If the planned strike action goes ahead, pupils will still be able to access learning materials online and a BACs payment will be made to pupils affected by the strike who are entitled to free school meals (not universal).

We appreciate that the ongoing industrial action will cause significant disruption to the learning of our children and young people, and many of you will now need to have alternative arrangements in place during these days. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Strong'.

Michelle Strong
Education Chief Operating Officer
Jordan.Wallace@midlothian.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

www.midlothian.gov.uk