

*Please ask for:*

*Direct Line:*

*E-Mail:*

*Our Ref:*

*Your Ref:*

*Date:*

8 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As you have already been made aware, the NASUWT teaching union is striking in secondary schools in Swansea on 13 September with further days planned for 19 and 20 September 2023.

Swansea Council is urging the NASUWT to call off the strike. The industrial action in July has already caused disruption to our secondary schools, pupils and their families.

Current negotiations have stalled but the Council has gone as far as it can by agreeing to four of the union's five demands.

The union has been characterising the industrial action as an issue about violent behaviour by pupils when, in fact, the dispute is about a single teacher dismissed for using excessive force against a child. The NASUWT has also claimed in the press that this dispute is also about teachers facing violent incidents. However, there was no violent pupil in this particular case.

As an employer, Swansea Council places high value on safeguarding adults and children. The council recognises school employees as caring, dedicated professionals who also place high value on safeguarding children and young people as part of their professional standards and Education Workforce Council code of conduct.

All teachers and other school staff normally ensure that when they need to intervene physically with a pupil, it is proportionate, safe and effective.

We will continue our dialogue with the NASUWT in an attempt to resolve this matter and to ensure that our pupils can continue to receive their education to which they are entitled.

Regards

Education Directorate