



01.11.18

Dear Parents and Caregivers

**Formal Confirmation of Full Day Teachers' Strike on Monday 12 November 2018**

The NZEI has advised the St Mary's School Board of Trustees that the Principal and teachers at our school will be taking strike action around workload issues, extra learning support and ways to stem the growing crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers, for a full day on Monday 12 November 2018.

The NZEI Teachers Union rejected the latest offer from the Ministry of Education and believed that the latest offer did not meet the years of underfunding and under resourcing that schools have faced over the past few years. Teacher members and the Union are seeking improvements to some core aspects:

- A pay jolt to lift the status of the teaching profession and to attract and retain teachers in the profession.
- It is getting harder and harder for schools to attract and find staff as less people enter or stay in the profession.
- Additional resourcing to support those children who have learning and/or behavioral needs.
- Improved workload conditions

The Board has carefully considered the availability of teaching staff, and unfortunately decided that we can't provide the normal teaching services during the strike. It's important that you make alternative arrangements for the care of your child/children on the day of the strike as the **school will be closed**. (MASC child care will be open.)

We understand that this is inconvenient for parents and students alike, but please be assured that student safety is our main concern. Thank you for your understanding.

Please contact the school office if you have any queries relating to this decision.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Shearer  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees