



## Open letter from NEU members at Western Road Community Primary School

Dear Parents,

You will know now that we as members of the National Education Union have taken the difficult decision to strike over proposed redundancies of teachers and teaching assistants at our school.

We voted on this after the school informed us in January that they intended to reduce the number of teachers (from 8.7 to 7) and to cut the number of teaching assistants from seven positions to three.

We have been in negotiation with the school and our employer (East Sussex County Council) over the proposed cuts and we have made progress. The school has put forward an updated draft proposal. However, this was only provided to our members in written form this evening, after we served our strike dates.

We will continue to negotiate to seek a resolution, but we remain opposed to compulsory redundancies. The current proposal does still place the jobs of two of our members at risk and we have serious concerns about how the cuts will affect workload and the education the school can provide for your children. It also includes the ending of fixed term contracts, and fixed term alteration to contracts, which will have workload implications.

We recognise the disruption that strike action can have on parents and on your children's learning. It is not a decision we have taken lightly. We will vote this week on whether to suspend the first day of strike based on the latest proposal, while we continue to negotiate.

As it stands, we will be taking strike action on the following dates.

- Wednesday 12 March
- Tuesday 18 and Thursday 20 March
- Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 March

Pickets will take place outside the school from 8am-9am at Western Rd, Lewes, BN7 1TR on each of the above days.

We hope you can support us by joining the picket line and by writing to our headteacher ([head@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:head@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk)) calling on our employer to abandon these cuts to ensure our school has the support it requires.

We currently have 21 NEU members in the school, which is an overwhelming majority of teaching and support staff. We had 100 per cent turnout in the ballot and 100 per cent Yes vote in favour of taking strike action.

With best regards,

NEU members at Western Road Community Primary School