

## **A STATEMENT FROM THE NASUWT**

### **OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS OF PUPILS AT DARLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND ST PETER'S, THE ROFFT, ALL SAINTS, LLAY, HOLT, PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Dear Parent,

Teachers who are members of the NASUWT the largest teachers' union in Wales will be taking strike action at Darland High School for two days this week. Three further days are planned for next week.

The teachers very much regret having to take this action and for any inconvenience caused to parents of pupils at Darland High School and indeed those of the primary school children who will be coming to the school and who may have been affected by the cancellation of an Induction Day for new pupils.

The teachers have had no choice but to take strike action because the school management and Chair of the Governing Body remain intransigent in the face of reasonable issues raised by the NASUWT on behalf of staff at the school.

In order to avoid disadvantaging pupils, the teachers had sought desperately to avoid further strike action and had held back from this for as long as possible pending resolution of the dispute.

However, rather than respecting that the teachers were seeking not to disadvantage the pupils the school management and chair of governors, with the support of the Wrexham Authority, decided to threaten to deduct salary from the teachers on a minute by minute basis, despite the fact that they were continuing to teach their lessons and do everything necessary to support teaching and learning. Not one minute of teaching time was being lost.

The NASUWT has repeatedly requested that the threat to deduct salary be withdrawn so that a strike could be avoided and pupils continue with their lessons. We have also offered to meet with the governing body. Neither of these requests has been agreed.

Cancelling the Induction Day for new pupils on Thursday would not have been necessary if the school management, chair of governors and the Wrexham Authority had been reasonable. Regrettably, they seem not to consider the education of pupils to be a priority.

The NASUWT stands ready to call off the strike action. All that is needed is for the threat to deduct salary from teachers to be withdrawn and the school and Local Authority to sit down and engage in dialogue with us to find a way forward to resolve this increasingly and unnecessarily bitter dispute.

Any parent who would like more information about the action the teachers are being forced to take and the reasons for it should contact: Rex Phillips, NASUWT Wales Organiser, at: [rex.phillips@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:rex.phillips@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)