Gordano School (Portishead) – Strike ballot result media release

For immediate release

Start:

Teacher members of the NEU (National Education Union) based at Gordano School in Portishead (part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership) have overwhelmingly voted "Yes" for strike action.

NEU Senior Regional Officer – Ian McCann explains "The reason our members at the school have voted "yes" for strike action is because of their unacceptable workload. It has increased over the recent months and years and has now come to such a level that it is having a detrimental effect on our members welfare. Members have simply had enough and want sustained change. They want the best for the pupils in their care and have recognised that constant tiredness and low morale amongst staff will not help to deliver this.

Although negotiation meetings have taken place between the NEU and the employer's representatives this week, it has not been possible for an agreement to be reached, it seems the employer has little interest in preventing strike action. This is disappointing as we believe that members issues are reasonable, genuine and easily resolved. NEU members have been left with no option and they will be taking strike action in February. The employer has been informed of 6 dates of action, the first being 3rd February.

The NEU remains hopeful that this dispute can be resolved before any strike action is due to take place and calls upon the employer to meet with us and commit to making sustainable change that will reduce teachers' workload. The employer needs to value education and value educators"

Ends

For further comment and interview please contact: Ian McCann, NEU Senior Regional Officer

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