



Sancta Maria  
Catholic Primary School

## **Letter to Parents about the Teacher's Strike**

We greatly appreciate the community support that we have already received following the decision by teachers and principals to strike on **Wednesday 29 May**.

The decision to take further strike action was not taken lightly by any of us. For the first time, both primary and secondary teachers are striking together because the crisis in education hits us all very hard and we need the Government to understand how serious it is.

Schools are grappling with the fallout of a 40% nosedive in the number of people training to be teachers between 2010 and 2016, even while the population grew by 400,000. While the situation improved a little last year and the Government has announced an urgent \$95m package to recruit teachers, this is not sufficient to address the crisis. Schools struggle daily to find enough teachers to meet their relief teacher needs and this will worsen as winter approaches. There is also a desperate need for more support for children with additional learning needs.

The fact is that teaching is no longer considered an attractive profession due to long-term under-funding of the education sector. A significant pay jolt is part of the solution, alongside significant improvements to our heavy workloads. Otherwise our schools will end up with larger class sizes and more teachers leaving.

On Wednesday 29 May 2019 the Board of Trustees 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 care of your child/children on the day of the strike.

## **The school will need to close during this strike from 8.45am to 3.00pm on Wednesday 29 May.**

I know that it is inconvenient for parents and students alike, but please be assured that student safety is our main concern.

Further information can be found on our website: [www.sanctamariaprimary.school.nz](http://www.sanctamariaprimary.school.nz)

Thank you for understanding. Please contact me, Mario Barbafiera, via email, [office@sanctamariaprimary.school.nz](mailto:office@sanctamariaprimary.school.nz) if you have any queries relating to this decision.

Yours sincerely

Mario Barbafiera  
Board Chairperson  
Sancta Maria Catholic Primary School Board of Trustees