



INDUSTRIAL ACTION UPDATE

Our Ref: 139/600

September 2017

The Central Executive Committee met on Friday last and reviewed our current Industrial Action. As the Action is extremely effective and discussions on pay and workload have not progressed to a solution as yet, it was decided to **MAINTAIN THE CURRENT ACTION PENDING A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF TALKS.**

Please note that **OFFICIALS ARE AVAILABLE TO VISIT YOUR SCHOOL, PARTICULARLY WHEN AN INSPECTION VISIT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED.** Just let us know when the Inspectorate is scheduled to arrive and we will ensure support is there for you.

It has been brought to our attention that some schools have been advised that if they do not produce their safeguarding documentation they will no longer be deemed "safe". In our view, this is a bullying technique and should be ignored. In reality the Inspectorate simply add a line to the report saying that they can no longer assure pupils are safe which is not the same thing. If this occurs, the Chair of the Board of Governors would be quite entitled to write out to parents assuring them that nothing has changed in terms of safety.

The CEC also wanted it pointed out that:

1. All parent consultation meetings should be scheduled to take place before 5.30pm **UNLESS AFTER STAFF CONSULTATION THERE IS THE EXPRESS AGREEMENT OF ALL STAFF THAT CONSULTATIONS MAY GO ON BEYOND THIS TIME.**

2. There should be strict adherence to the original PRSD guidance i.e. there should be one meeting to set parameters for the observation, observation based on this and feedback afterwards. Further guidance on PRSD will be sent out to schools in the next week outlining the agreed practice. It has been noted that some schools are expecting far in excess of what is agreed, expecting teachers to produce portfolios of work thereby adding to teacher workload.

3. Please note that the teacher workload sub-groups have been meeting to identify what can be streamlined to cut down on workload and these recommendations will be sent out to schools when the negotiations have been completed.

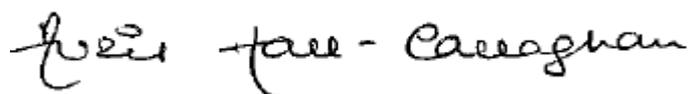
4. **ASSESSMENT REMAINS SUSPENDED UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS. NO** school should supply information to the Department of Education on pupil levels of achievement until further notice. The exception to this is in schools participating in funded Shared Education projects where it is a condition of funding that levels be submitted - these levels should be supplied based on teachers' judgements only, with no evidential tasks supplied.

5. Please note that when supplying Census data the information on pupil levels should be responded to by marking N/R in the appropriate category.

Any member with a query on the Industrial Action should contact us to seek assistance. We thank you very much for adhering to the action to date, particularly in circumstances where it has been difficult. We would ask for your continued co-operation in this action which has been widespread and effective and has resulted in Management Side participation in useful talks with a goal of reducing teacher workload to a manageable level.

The action will be reviewed again at next month's CEC meeting to be held on **13th October**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Avril Hall-Callaghan', written in a cursive style.

Avril Hall-Callaghan
General Secretary