**University of Cumbria Initial Teacher Education Partnership**

**Advice to (ITT) Student Teachers – Teaching Union Industrial (Strike) Action: Impact on Student Teachers.**

Student teachers registered with a Higher Education Institution technically cannot `strike' as a part of teaching union action as they are not employed and therefore cannot withdraw their labour. For School Direct **Salaried** trainees (SDS) the situation is different as they are employed and therefore, they may decide to join a strike called by their union.

We advise that all student teachers on programmes other than SDS undertaking placement learning experience in schools/settings affected by strike action should attend the school/setting as normal. **They should not be required to supervise learning or take a class where a teacher is on strike, nor should they be asked to cover for any other teacher on strike.**

If the school/setting is closed due to strike action or being picketed, then student teachers will not be expected to attend or to cross a picket line unless they choose to do so. In such cases student teachers should satisfy themselves that their placement school/setting has agreed that they will not be attending placement on that day due to school/setting closure and they should make their University Partnership Tutor aware. In this circumstance, student teachers are expected to use the day for planning, preparation or assessment work related to their own placement practice (but not carry out any tasks for or on behalf of a striking member of the school staff).

When a student teacher misses a single day of placement the Partnership does not expect the day to be ‘made-up’ with an additional negotiated day at the end of the placement. **In the event of substantial and prolonged strike-action, the university will provide additional advice to ensure compliance with DfE ITT Requirements guidance.**

It is for employed student teachers (SDS) to decide how to respond to a strike call by any union to which they belong and they will act accordingly. In such circumstances the student’s tutor must be made aware.

*Placement Liaison Manager*

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