



16 Redwood Street  
Upper Hutt  
Website: [www.fraser cres school.nz](http://www.fraser cres school.nz)

Telephone: (04) 528 5412  
Facsimile: (04) 528 5435  
Email: [office@fraser cres school.nz](mailto:office@fraser cres school.nz)

10 March 2023

## **RE: School Closed for Strike Action – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

This letter is to inform you that Fraser Crescent School will be closed on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March due to teachers and principals taking strike action. I do apologise for the late notice, however we only learnt of the decision to strike last night.

Please have a read of the information below, as it provides some more background about why teachers and principals are striking.

---

### **Concerns with the Education Profession**

As teachers and principals, we are passionate about education. We love what we do and always put the needs of our students first. In 2019, we took key steps towards a fairer, better resourced primary education sector. Whilst we made some progress, we always knew there was still so much work to be done.

You may have heard in the media this week that teachers and principals have rejected the latest offer with regards to their collective bargaining and elected to strike. It is a difficult time for us and the big issue is that the Government is not willing to address our relative work conditions and parity of staffing levels that exist between primary and secondary schools.

A lack of Government funding has meant that we no longer have the support we need to make sure every child has access to quality education. If we are going to ensure that all tamariki in Aotearoa can reach their potential in primary schools and Kura Kaupapa Māori, fundamental changes to education must be implemented.

### **Our Education Sector is in a crisis!**

The model used to determine staffing levels has been in place for 25 years. The urgent need for fundamental changes was highlighted in the 2021 Pūaotanga report. The Wāwāhi Tahā campaign calls on the Ministry of Education to implement these changes and to take bold action to ensure that all children have the education they deserve.

Like many schools across New Zealand, Fraser Crescent School is finding it extremely difficult to recruit quality teachers to educate your children. A decrease in teachers across the country has also meant that our relief teacher pool has shrunk. Too often we have to split classrooms to accommodate teacher illness or absence. We are demanding a pathway to address staffing issues now.

Our primary principals campaign is based on 3 key themes of relativity, equity and parity. We are asking the government to:

- Recognise and value the role of our principals with a pay offer that values principals, to ensure we can attract and retain principals now and in future.
- Ensure professional wellbeing for school leaders – all principals having access to support so that we can continue to provide strong leadership.
- Set out an ambitious plan to address the shortfall in staffing in primary schools. Government was advised in the Tomorrows Schools Review to fix the disparity between primary and secondary schools – where there is a big gap in staffing entitlements.

Similarly, our primary teachers campaign is asking for the Government to:

- Address widespread understaffing. Allow teachers enough time to complete their work during work hours. Support teachers working with high needs students.
- Value teachers' work. Recognise the importance of cultural skills.
- Better support for health and safety in schools. Provide job security for relievers.

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing support. At the core of our negotiations is a desire for your children to have the greatest opportunity to learn and grow whilst within the education system of New Zealand.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Channer', enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

John Channer  
Principal