



Press Release: 27 May 2022

Agreement reached at the John Fisher School: teachers call off strike

Staff at the John Fisher School have agreed to call off further strike action, a move welcomed by parents and carers, the school's Governing Body and the Archdiocese of Southwark.

The strike was called by members of the National Education Union following the recommendation by the Archdiocese of Southwark that a planned visit by the author Simon James Green be cancelled. The Archdiocese took this course of action following concerns about the age-appropriateness and religious insensitivity of the author's books.

In their agreement to settle the dispute, both the Governing Body and NEU representatives recognised that the John Fisher School is 'an inclusive and diverse environment', which at its core is a 'Catholic school that operates within the RSHE statutory guidance' and 'the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church'.

The agreement also reflects the comments made by Ofsted in their recent inspection which highlighted the inclusive nature and welcoming learning environment of the school.

The decision to call off the strike will be warmly welcomed by parents and carers at the school who have raised serious concerns about industrial action taking place so close to exam season.

A spokesperson for the School Governing Body commented:

"The John Fisher has a proud history of being one of the highest performing Catholic schools in London. It has therefore been highly regrettable that events have unfolded as they have done, so close to the exam season.

"Getting pupils back into the classroom as quickly as possible has been our overriding objective, and we have been acutely aware of parents' concerns, especially those with children in Year 11, that pupils have lost valuable lesson time so close to their GCSEs.

"We are grateful to all those involved in negotiations for approaching discussions with a spirit of openness and collaboration which have allowed us to move forward and draw a line under this incident.

"The John Fisher School is a welcoming and inclusive learning environment, and it is so because of its strong Catholic ethos which teaches respect for the God-given dignity of every human being."

ENDS

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