Memorandum

Date: 17 June 2014
To: Parents and Friends of the School Community
From: Dr Trish Hindmarsh, Director
Subject: Industrial Action

Following a breakdown in enterprise bargaining negotiations between Tasmanian Catholic education employing authorities and the Independent Education Union (IEU), the IEU sought protected industrial action for its members from the Fair Work Commission (FWC).

In accordance with the Fair Work Act 2009, we received due notice late Thursday of last week that protected industrial action may now be taken in Catholic schools throughout the State. A ballot conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission and authorised by the FWC resulted in members of the IEU deciding in favour of taking the following protected actions:

• An unlimited number of four (4) hour stoppages of work;
• An unlimited number of twenty-four hour stoppages of work;
• Distributing information to parents about the action and bargaining; and
• Wearing campaign material and / or badges.

Some or all of these actions are expected to take place in many of our schools over the next month or so and, perhaps, beyond that time.

Parents, guardians and carers can rest assured that their school will continue to be open for business as usual, and that every care will be taken to ensure that children are well supervised and engaged in meaningful activities, even if all their usual classes are not possible because of reduced staffing. It is our intention to have our schools as fully functioning and focussed on learning programs as possible.

The Principal and senior school / college leaders will be on duty and actively taking leadership of staff in providing for students’ needs during this period of industrial action.

A number of staff (IEU Members only) may not be in attendance during the hours of any work stoppage/s, and it important that their right to engage in what is legitimate and protected industrial action is respected by all members of the school community.

Thankyou in anticipation of your understanding and cooperation in making the best of what are challenging circumstances.

Dr Trish Hindmarsh
Director