



The Blue Coat School

An Academy 'Leaders in Science and Mathematics'

Church Road Wavertree Liverpool L15 9EE

Telephone: 0151 733 1407

11 March 2019

Dear Parent

Re: Global Youth Strike Friday 15 March 2019: Climate Change

On Friday 15 March 2019, many young people across the world will be participating in a global youth strike to protest about inaction on climate change. We recognise that some students at The Blue Coat School may wish to show their support for this matter through their participation.

The Blue Coat School values the interest and engagement of young people in matters which they feel will have a significant impact on them and others. We also recognise that some young people may feel that this participation on 15 March is essential in support of their cause.

As a result of a number of enquiries the School has had about the possibility of approving authorised absence for students who wish to participate in the global youth strike, it is helpful to outline the position that the School believes it is most appropriate to take.

While the School does not wish to discourage interest and engagement in matters that young people feel are very important, we regret that under current Department for Education guidelines about attendance at school, the School does not consider that it is appropriate to authorise absence in support of the global youth strike. Although the School has the option to grant authorised leave from school in exceptional circumstances, the School does not wish to:

- set a precedent that any youth strike is deemed to be exceptional circumstances, or
- inadvertently present itself as the arbiter as to whether any individual youth strike should be deemed exceptional circumstances or not.



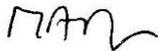
While we understand that some parents and students may be disappointed by the School's position, we hope that it is appreciated that we have transparently shared our considered opinion on this matter.

We recognise that some parents may still wish to support their children's involvement in the youth strike on 15 March. We politely ask that in such cases, a [request for absence](#) is submitted so that we are in receipt of the usual information we need to ensure our usual very high standards of safeguarding at The Blue Coat School.

I hope that this letter provides clarity for you about the school's position.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M A Pennington
Headteacher

