



## Catholic Schools Office *Diocese of Armidale*

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Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to share with you a communication that has been sent by the Armidale Diocese to the school's teaching and support staff concerning planned, protected industrial action by the Independent Education Union (IEU).

The IEU intends for our employees who are union members to participate in protected industrial action in Term 2.

The Armidale Diocese fully supports its employees' right to take protected industrial action in pursuit of a new pay deal, but is deeply concerned at further potential disruption to students and the school community, particularly given the experience of the last two years.

The NSW and ACT dioceses have made good progress in discussions to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement for their 20,000 teaching and support staff, and consider that we can continue to do so without the pressure of industrial action at this time.

We continue to urge the IEU to keep working collaboratively with us to reach a fair and just outcome for employees, and we will keep you informed of progress.

Sincerely,

Chris Smyth  
Director of Schools