



South Dartmoor Community College

Principal Kevin Dyke

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Dear Parents/Carers

On Friday 20 September 2019 we are aware that there will be another series of strikes, across various UK towns and cities, to heighten awareness of the dangers of failing to act on climate change.

South Dartmoor Community College fully recognises the importance of tackling the issue of climate change and respects the rights of our young people to campaign for change. At the same time our schools have a duty to ensure that pupils are in school and safe. We would ask that parents consider the following if they wish their child to participate in this national protest:

- Where will my child be?
- Who will my child be with?
- Is this a legitimate and organised protest event?
- Will my child be safe?
- What if something goes wrong?

We would request that pupils choose to remain at school, and focus on proactive in-school opportunities to raise awareness of climate change.

However, should any parents strongly wish to allow their child to participate in the planned protest then we would require a letter to be written to the Headteacher, outlining the child's concerns about climate change, what they plan to do in school to contribute to awareness raising (e.g. contributing to assemblies, participating in eco-activities etc...), where they will be participating in the protest, along with the parent confirming that they are taking full responsibility for the safety and welfare of their child during that day. Without this letter and the requested details, the absence will not be authorised. This will need to be communicated to the school prior to Friday morning.

For safeguarding reasons, pupils will not be permitted to leave site without permission on the day.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Dyke
Principal