



Talking to people you know about why teachers are going on strike

To achieve our goal of an education system where every child leaves school equipped with the skills, confidence, values and knowledge that will allow them to make the most of every opportunity we are going to have to talk to everyone we know.

Research shows real life conversations are incredibly powerful. They're what change hearts and minds.

The people you know – whether friends or whānau, work colleagues, people at church, your local sporting club – will be far more influenced by their personal conversation with you than by anything they see in the media.

Some of the people we talk to will already be on board. Others won't have thought about it much yet, or won't be sure where they stand.

But lots of people who may show 'soft' support still have questions.

No doubt about it, these personal conversations can sometimes be confronting. But they can also be incredibly respectful, beneficial and even fun. Allowing people to reflect, ask questions and share their concerns means we're campaigning in-line with the values that we stand for.

The information below is to help you, but it's a suggested guide only. For more, check out our "**Key messages**" document, visit bringoutthebest.nz or have a chat with your PPTA branch chair.

Introduce the issue

"How do you feel about teachers going on strike?"

Start with an open question – you are never going to find out what someone thinks unless you let them tell you first!

And remember – this may be the first time that they have really thought about this issue, so give them the time and space to work this through for themselves before you start digging deeper into the discussion.

If they strongly support what teachers are trying to achieve

"Me too! Why do you support it?"

"I personally feel strongly about it because..."

This gives people a chance to really think about why education and teaching is important to them – which means that they are more likely to be clear about why they support us - and for you to share why it's important to you too.

If they sounds like they are not sure about supporting teachers' aspirations

"It sounds like you are not 100% on this. What part of you is leaning towards supporting teacher strikes?"

"For me, it's about..."

You can help people understand by listening, but also sharing why this matters to you.

If it sounds like they have quite a few reasons against supporting teachers

"It sounds like we might just have to agree to disagree."

If they have lots of reasons why they won't support teachers, they have probably made up their minds. Don't take it personally.

It can be hard when people that you know don't see things in the same way or share your values.

Ask the question

"Can I count on you to support our industrial action?"

No matter how strongly someone seems to support the issue, it's always worth asking the question!

If they say they will

"That's great! Can you join us at xxxxxxxx on 29 May?"

Thank them for the conversation

"Thanks for the chat!"

No matter how the conversation has gone, you should make sure that you end the conversation well. It's important that we campaign in line with our values.