



Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union  
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## **For immediate release**

### **Cleaners at Highgate Wood School plan second strike for London Living Wage – National Education Union members and school parents offer support – Strike scheduled for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

London, UK – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Industrial action by cleaners at Highgate Wood School began on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November and is set to continue. Another strike and public protest will be held at Highgate Wood School (Montenotte Rd, London N8 8RN) on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The action is primarily aimed at securing the London Living Wage.

In addition, cleaners have voted to strike over the school's cleaning contractor Lakethorne Group's:

- Lack of pay arrangements for special duties;
- Failure to provide adequate materials;
- Failure to equalise pay and annual leave entitlements;
- Mismanagement of work schedules.

The first strike by cleaners took place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. At 4pm, just before a parents' evening, members and supporters of the Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union (CAIWU) arrived to show solidarity and support in a protest.

Previously, CAIWU members had voted to take industrial action in early October. CAIWU has been in regular contact with representatives at Lakethorne to attempt to seek resolution through dialogue, and the union remains open to discussion. A previous meeting, to be facilitated by ACAS (The Government-backed Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, was cancelled by Lakethorne Group.

As working conditions remain unchanged since this industrial action, CAIWU members have voted to resume strike activity, this time on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Following the action

on November 12<sup>th</sup>, the union members are now working with the support of members of the NEU, as well as some parents and students at Highgate Wood School, who have written to the head-teacher to register their support for CAIWU and to invite the school to discuss the London Living Wage and adequate provision of cleaning materials with parents.

**About CAIWU:** The Cleaners & Allied Independent Workers Union is a registered trade union representing over a thousand workers, mainly in London's cleaning industry. We believe that every human being is entitled to dignity and respect in the workplace, and it is our mission to help our members fight for this basic right, along with others like fair pay, terms and work conditions.

**About Highgate Wood School:** HWS is a mixed comprehensive school, catering for over 1400 students, with the school motto "Everyone Matters". The school's established values are "Courtesy, Consideration, Contribution and Cooperation".

**About Lakethorne Group Services:** Lakethorne Group provide clients with what they call "background services", including contract-cleaning services. They are a specialist provider for the educational and healthcare sectors.

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**Notes to editor:**

For more information, please contact Alberto Durango, CAIWU national organiser, on 075 900 98084 or Jane Kilpatrick / Jess Wheligan, CAIWU Communications Officers, at [communications@caiwu.org.uk](mailto:communications@caiwu.org.uk) or 07927 451 462

For CAIWU's campaign page, go to <http://caiwu.org.uk/hws/>

<http://www.caiwu.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cleaners.branch/>