

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Principal,

### **RE: Translink Planned Industrial Action**

We have been notified by Translink that their bus drivers who are members of the GMB and Unite trade unions have voted to take industrial action in relation to 2021 pay. This will result in all Translink bus services being withdrawn from **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 inclusive**.

This strike action will have a significant impact on school transport services. Schools are asked to advise parents of the potential disruption and the need to put in place alternative arrangements on these dates where appropriate.

Schools are also asked to advise parents to follow Translink's social media channels and website for further updates.

The following advice applies during the planned period of Translink industrial action:

- Translink bus services including Ulsterbus, Metro, Goldliner and Glider will be non-operational during the planned period of industrial action.
- Pupils who use any Translink bus service for any element of their journey are likely to be impacted and schools should advise parents to make other transport arrangements for these dates.
- Pupils who connect with a Translink bus service via an Education Authority (EA) yellow bus should not commence their journey on the EA bus, even if it is running. EA cannot guarantee pupils would be able to complete their journey, so parents should make alternative arrangements for the whole of their child's journey to and from school.
- Train services will not be affected by the industrial action, however, it remains the case that bus passes will not be accepted for use on the rail network during this period.

Translink continues to engage with Trade Unions to try and avert this action and have specifically requested exemptions for home to school transport. However, to date these have not been granted.

The EA is concerned that this industrial action will have further impact on pupils' learning, particularly for those year groups taking key examinations over the coming weeks. We would therefore ask you to consider if it might be possible to provide additional support for pupils who may be unable to arrange alternative transport, recognising that you may have local knowledge that may present opportunities. We recognise that this may be challenging in the context of the current industrial action short of strike currently being undertaken by NASUWT.

### **Social Media Message for Parents**

We recognise the need to ensure parents are kept informed of any impacts as a result of the Translink industrial action. Please see below a message that you can share on your digital communication channels.

**“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”**

**Education Authority**

**40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ**

**T: +44 (0)28 9056 4000 F: +44 (0)28 9033 1714 W: [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)**

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The Education Authority (EA) has been notified by Translink that their bus drivers who are members of the GMB and Unite trade unions have voted to take strike action in relation to 2021 pay.

This will result in all Translink bus services being withdrawn from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022. Translink continue to engage with Trade Unions to try and avert this action.

Pupils who use any Translink bus service for any element of their journey are likely to be impacted and parents should make other transport arrangements for these dates.

This includes pupils who connect with Translink buses using an EA yellow bus. As EA cannot guarantee pupils could complete their journey to and from school, even if the EA yellow bus is running, parents should make alternative arrangements for the whole of their child's journey.

Parents should follow Translink's social media channels and website over the coming weeks and start to plan now for their alternative transport arrangements.

Translink has advised that train services will not be affected by the industrial action.

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We will continue to keep you updated in relation to this and communicate any further updates. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Yours Sincerely,

Robbie McGreevy  
**EA Assistant Director, Corporate HR and Business Partnering, Human Resources**

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