

29th November 2023



Strike Action – Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I have been informed that further strike action, on the part of public transport trade unions SIPTU, GMB and UNITE is taking place on Friday 1st December (full day). Strike action on the part on non teaching union UNITE will also take place on this date.

School will remain open on Friday and children should attend as normal, but parents and children should be aware of the following:

- **Translink services will be unavailable on Friday.**
- **I have been advised that our EA buses (yellow) will operate as normal.**
- **Private hire bus services and taxis will not be impacted by the strike.**
- **School canteen service will operate as normal.**

The Education Authority has provided the following guidance for parents and pupils regarding the disruption to Translink services.

The EA has been informed by Translink that they are expecting there will be no train or bus services – Ulsterbus, Goldliner, Metro or Glider, operating on Friday 1st December, due to Industrial action.

Over 57,000 children and young people in receipt of bus passes will be impacted, as well as fare paying pupils. This will affect pupils who attend both primary and post-primary schools and Further Education Colleges.

Parents are therefore strongly advised to make alternative arrangements for their child if they connect with a Translink bus service for any portion of their journey to and/or from school. This includes children who connect to a Translink service via an EA yellow bus, private hire bus or ferry service. EA cannot guarantee pupils will be able to complete their journey and strongly advise they confirm alternative arrangements.

Translink will communicate relevant passenger information through the media, via the industrial action webpage on their website: **<https://www.translink.co.uk/industrialaction>** through social media, in stations, and on buses and trains. The Translink contact centre will also remain open, should you have any queries please call **T: 028 9066 6630**.

EA Transport (yellow buses)

While I have been informed that our EA buses will operate as normal, information on disruption can be accessed as follows:

Details of EA bus services that will not operate will be published on the Transport Updates Webpage on the EA website, however, some services may be disrupted at such short notice that advance notification is not possible. We would again advise parents/carers to consider potential alternative arrangements in advance and check the website regularly – updates will be posted at 5.00 pm each evening: Transport Updates Webpage / www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates

In summary, while Translink services will be unavailable this Friday, school will remain open and our EA buses (yellow), private hire buses and taxis will operate as normal.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Matthews', written in a cursive style.

Ian Matthews

Principal