



Ballyclare Secondary School

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Principal: Mrs K O Bell BA Adv Cert Ed PQH

14th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Planned Industrial Action by Translink

The Education Authority (EA) has been notified by Translink that their bus drivers who are members of the Unite and GMB trade unions have voted to take industrial action in relation to a pay offer from Translink. Translink provide the bus services for our school.

Translink are continuing to engage with Trade Unions to avert the action, however, if it does proceed it would result in all Translink bus services being withdrawn from **Monday 25th April to Sunday 1st May and Friday 6th May (one day)**.

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 train services will not be affected by the industrial action.

We also encourage parents to check the EA website for regular updates and details of any planned disruption at: www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates and also EA social media channels.

I am very concerned that this industrial action will once again impact pupils' learning, particularly for those year groups taking key examinations over the coming weeks. I am also aware that not every parent/carers will be able to arrange alternative transport. For any pupil who is impacted by the planned industrial action and unable to attend school we will provide remote learning materials for pupils to access either on line or through learning packs. Learning resources will also be available on Google Drive.

I would encourage, where possible, particularly for our pupils taking examinations over the coming weeks, that you endeavour to arrange alternative transport even if that means your child arrives to school earlier or a little later than usual. I will ensure that staff are in school to supervise those who arrive before 8.30 am.

I will continue to keep all parents/carers updated in relation to this planned industrial action and I will communicate any further updates. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Bell
Principal