



# BELFAST MODEL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Principal: Ms P Stuart, B. Ed, PQH NI, M. Ed

12<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parent / Guardian

Re: School Buses and Vehicular Access to School Site

In Belfast Model School for Girls we are very eager to develop and encourage a culture and a practice amongst our students of staying to work or play outside of school hours and to promote a fit and active lifestyle.

We want this to happen in a safe and secure environment. On a 'normal' school day staff will be on site to supervise students from 8.30am until 5.30pm in the evening. Parents / guardians should be aware that no arrangements have been made to supervise students outside of these hours.

For special school events, parents / guardians will be notified of the arrangements and supervision will be organised by the staff in charge.

I also wish to take this opportunity to ask parents / guardians who use a car to drop off or collect students from school **NOT TO drive into the school site in the morning as school buses are arriving or in the afternoon when buses are coming to the school site to collect students.** Too many vehicles in such a limited space poses a real risk of an accident happening and the school buses cannot park safely so as to allow students to board. Please **DO NOT** park at any time in the bus lanes or in a manner to block Dunowen Gardens as this creates mayhem for bus drivers, students and residents.

**Please note:** Parents requiring access to the site on the basis of medical grounds are advised to contact the school office so that arrangements can be put into place.

Finally, we have recently been in contact with management from Translink to make them aware of some issues students are presently experiencing with their service. I raised the following issues:

- In the morning buses along various routes are driving past students standing at a stop as the buses are too full
- In the morning buses are arriving late to pick up students so students are then late for school. I reminded Translink that all students using their bus service should be here on site no later than 8.45am
- I requested that all buses serving this school were double decker's

Personnel from Translink assured me that they took my concerns very seriously and following discussion with other management, they will be present along the route to observe the issues first hand. They also advised that parents who had concerns / issues about their bus service should let them know directly via their Customer Services desk.





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This would provide them with additional evidence to support my claims. Thank you to all those parents who have let me know their concerns – I am lobbying on your behalf but please contact Translink directly and complain if needs be – this will only strengthen our case.

*TRANSLINK - We welcome any comments, complaints or suggestions which you may have on improving our service.*

**Ring Us**

*Please ring our **Contact Centre** for any enquiries or to provide us with feedback. Translink bus & rail timetable enquiries are also available through our Contact Centre.*

**Telephone: 44 (0)28 90 66 66 30**

**Contact Centre Opening hours:** Monday – Friday 7am to 8pm, Saturday & Sunday 8am to 6pm.

Finally, please remind your child of the importance of Road Safety. Some drivers have contacted the school to communicate their concerns about girls running across roads and / or walking between traffic. Students should use the pedestrian crossings available and be mindful of the wellbeing of all road users.

Thank you for your help and support with this issue

Yours faithfully,

Paula Stuart  
Principal

