

Belfast Grand Central Station

FINAL Schools Update: Issue October 2024:

Briefing Update for Pupils, Parents, Schools and Colleges on public transport arrangements in Belfast.

Belfast Grand Central Station Now Open

New Rail Timetable - Passengers to check timetables before travelling

Bus and Coach Service in operation from 8th Sept

Translink is delighted to confirm that rail services have commenced at Belfast Grand Central Station. This development is an important next step in the journey for this world-class facility which has been designed to bring bus, coach and rail services together in one place.

This means that the rail line between Belfast and Lisburn has reopened, and Enterprise services will operate to / from Belfast Grand Central Station which will be the main terminus station for the city.

A new train timetable is now available to view online at www.translink.co.uk or download the Translink Journey Planner.

Passengers and parents of pupils travelling to school are urged to plan their journey in advance, pre buy their ticket (if not in possession of a School Pass), and allow extra time for their journey, particularly travelling through the Belfast area.

Key messages - plan ahead, buy prepaid tickets to travel in advance where appropriate and allow extra time for your journey.

Key changes for Local Rail Services:

- All local rail services will operate to/from Grand Central Station
- Services will resume at **Botanic and City Hospital** stations
- **Bangor line** services will now terminate at Grand Central Station
- **Portadown line** services will now terminate at Grand Central Station
- All former through services will also now require a change
- Passengers should allow extra time to interchange to another bus or rail service if continuing on a different route.

As the new terminus station for the region, the station offers enhanced connectivity and integration with the wider public transport network.

Getting to the New Station

The Station can be accessed via the main entrance just off Glengall Street or Grosvenor Road (closest for rail platforms).

Passengers and parents should allow some extra time for car parking or use the designated drop off and pick up points at Grosvenor Road-Value Car Parks and St Andrews Square North to access the station.



Public Realm Street Works – Durham Street Closure

To facilitate essential public realm works around the new station, a full road closure of Durham Street (from Grosvenor Road to Hope Street) commenced on Saturday 12th October 2024 for a period of up to 12 months.

- Look out for the safe diversionary routes in place for pedestrians
- Stay alert – eyes up and phones down
- Allow extra time for your journey

We are encouraging everyone to consider using public transport and play a part in helping reduce traffic in the city, reducing pollution and tackling the climate crisis.

Ticketing Developments – Contactless accepted across bus and rail network

Ticketing for Rail Passengers – *New arrangements in place*

The new train station will see automatic ticketing gates introduced.

Pupils with EA School passes will simply need to scan their pass to get through the gates.

Tickets can also be bought from one of the rail ticket vending machines in the station or use mLink mobile app or iLink Smartcard. You can also buy online and collect at the ticket vending machine.

This new system will help speed up journeys and enhance convenience.

Contactless payments

Contactless payments can now be made on all bus and train journeys across the network enhancing integration, convenience and payment flexibility, while also enabling faster boarding and an enhanced customer experience

Digital ticket options are being heavily promoted such as mLink mobile app, Smartcards, online ticketing, and Ticket Vending Machines. While cash will still be accepted, our aim is to get more passengers to prepay to speed up journeys and enhance convenience.

Key Takeaways

- The railway line between Belfast Lanyon Place and Lisburn reopened
- Pre purchase your ticket if not using a school pass
- A new train timetable is now available.
- Most passengers will see a change to their previous timetables.
- Passengers should plan ahead, check the website www.translink.co.uk or Journey Planner before they travel.
- Allow extra time for your journey.
- Use of public transport is encouraged to access Belfast city centre.
- Road users are advised to expect some delays.
- With street works ongoing around the new station, pedestrians should take care to look out for the signage and show due care for themselves by following the safe diversionary routes in place.

Useful Links

Visit our schools' pages:

<https://www.translink.co.uk/UsingOurServicesandProducts/OurServices/schoolservices>

A guide to navigating the station for rail passengers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuopHEG3qvw>

A guide to navigating the station for bus passengers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISXTRHcME2w>

Audio guide to accessibility at the new station:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4dZIJsbPHc>

Additional traffic information:

<https://www.trafficwatchni.com/>

We would like to thank you for your continued support to create a positive lasting legacy for everyone's benefit.

We advise passengers to keep up to date with all the latest news through our website www.translink.co.uk/bgcs, follow us on social media or reach out to feedback@translink.co.uk