



11/06/21

A thuismitheoir, a chara,

Earlier in the year, I communicated with you that discussions had commenced between the school and EA Transport regarding the provision of an EA bus service for Gaelscoil na mBeann pupils. I would like to thank you all once again for your participation in the survey distributed as it has been invaluable in supporting our case.

EA Transport have now proposed a possible solution for the school's transport issues however please note that this has NOT been confirmed and will once again depend on your input as well as other factors not yet finalised. I have outlined some important points for your consideration below:

- EA Transport provide transport assistance and/or bus services to families who meet their criteria. To check your eligibility and see if your child meets the Home to School Transport criteria in the first instance, please visit the link below –
<https://transport.eani.org.uk/EligibilityChecker/>
- If deemed eligible for assistance with transport, the parent should then proceed to make an application via <https://transport.eani.org.uk/HomeToSchool/> Please ensure that this application is made before the end of July at the very latest.
- Those who live in the area between Ballymartin-Kilkeel should also proceed to make a formal application. The road safety issue on the Main Road from Ballymartin has now been taken into consideration on the EA On-line transport application facility, so any assessment calculated to determine a family's eligibility who may have previously received a refusal should now be granted eligibility and will not be required to submit an appeal.
- If this proposal is accepted and confirmed, our school day will change to facilitate those children using the bus service. See proposed breakdown below:

Gaelscoil na mBeann / Naíscoil na mBeann

Seoladh: 127A Bóthar Chaisleán Nua, Cill Chaoil, Co. an Dúin, BT34 4NL

Guthán: 028 41258418



Start time	Rang 1-3 finish time	Rang 4-7 finish time
8:30am	1:30pm	2:30pm

- This proposed bus service will replace the EA Home to School Transport payment you may currently receive.
- Pupils who do not meet the criteria for EA Transport Assistance (i.e. live within 2 miles of the school) will not be permitted to use the EA school bus service.

Due to the expense of running the current Newry & Mourne Community Transport bus service and with school budgets stretched more now than ever, this service will be discontinued from the end of June. As such, the proposed EA service would be the only bus service available to Gaelscoil na mBeann pupils.

EA Transport have asked that we determine how many pupils would use the services if they are confirmed. As such, I would ask that you visit the link below, look at the proposed bus stops and please complete the form confirming if your child would use the EA bus service from September onwards. Responses for this form will close on Monday, 14/06/21 at 4pm <https://forms.gle/fdVs8josmadBbJ2o6>

I fully understand that the proposed earlier start and finish times will require changes to child care etc which is why we endeavour to have all arrangements finalised before the end of this school year giving you time to sort logistics for your family.

Is mise le mór-mheas,

Mícheál Ó Brádaigh

Príomhoide

Gaelscoil na mBeann

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