



SECTION 3

Using the bus

Different types of buses

Most of the buses and trains that run here belong to a company called Translink. Translink has 3 different types of buses:



Metro buses are pink and are in Belfast.



Ulsterbus buses are blue and you will see them in cities, towns and villages as well as Belfast



Goldline buses are blue and gold. These buses are fast buses between towns and cities. Goldline buses only stop at certain bus stops. Check before you get on.

Planning your journey



Before you travel you need to think about all of the information that you will need to know like:



What **number** bus you need to catch.

Where the nearest **bus stop** is and how long it will take you to walk to the stop.



Where you need to get off the bus.

What bus you will get back.

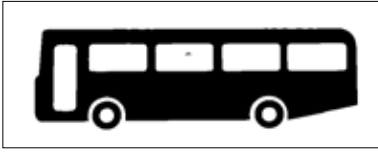


Remember...

You can find out about all Translink services by phoning: 028 90 66 66 30

You can also visit Translink's website at www.translink.co.uk

At the bus stop



A **bus stop** has a sign with a black bus symbol.



There are **Metro** bus stops which you will only see in Belfast. Metro buses only stop at these pink bus stops.



Ulsterbus stops can be seen outside Belfast in towns and villages and in the countryside. Ulsterbus buses only stop at blue bus stops.



Goldline buses only stop at Goldline bus stops.

At the bus stop



Some bus stops in Belfast have a computer screen on them. This will tell you when the next bus is coming and where it is going.



Some bus stops have a shelter. Make sure you're standing or sitting **where the driver can see you**.



When the bus is coming **hold your arm out** to let the driver know you want him to stop.

If you are not sure, always hold out your arm.



If the bus is too high for you, you can ask the driver to make it lower.

If you are not sure if this is the right bus, ask the driver.

At the bus stop



Have your **SmartPass** or money ready before the bus arrives.

Always bring a little extra money with you just in case.

Make sure you know if you are going to buy a single ticket or a return ticket.

Don't worry if the bus is a few minutes late.

If the bus doesn't turn up, wait for the next one. If you are not sure ring home.

Paying for your ticket



To be able to use a bus you will need to buy a ticket.

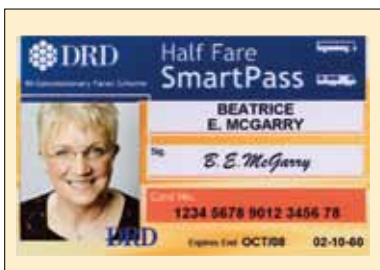
On most buses you can pay for your ticket on board.

For Goldline buses that start at a main station you will have to pay for your ticket at the ticket desk before you get on the bus.



You can buy a ticket by:

- Paying with money.
- Using an electronic card called a Smartlink card. You can buy these from Translink or from some shops and newsagents.
- Using money and your half fare concessionary pass if you have one.



On the bus



Place your Smartpass on the top of the ticket machine or hand it to the driver.

Wait to get a ticket.



Try to sit at the front of the bus near the driver. If the bus is a Double Decker sit downstairs.



Most buses have a space for people who use a wheelchair. You can sit here, but if someone gets on the bus who needs this space, you will have to move.



When you are near your stop, ring the bell once.



The **bus stopping** sign should light up. Stay in your seat until the bus has stopped.

If you need help



Ask the driver to help you if –

- You think you have missed your stop.
- You are unsure about when to get off the bus.
- People are bothering you on the bus.
- The bus breaks down or changes its route.

Remember the bus driver will help you

If you are worried or scared speak to the driver.

