

13 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know about a strike being called by Unite members, which may affect the SEND Travel Assistance Service.

We have been informed that members intend to go on strike on the following days:

- Tuesday 18 June
- Thursday 20 June
- Tuesday 25 June
- Thursday 27 June
- Thursday 4 July
- Tuesday 9 July

Unfortunately this means that we will not be able to guarantee that we can safely run all of our buses.

By way of background, Unite wants Passenger Assistants and Drivers to be paid a 'split shift enhancement'. Their working arrangements have been the same since 1991 and see staff paid for 20/30/36 hours work a week, split across shifts in the morning and afternoon. The current pay settlement is significantly more generous than those for equivalent jobs in other local authorities.

The Council is unable, under existing pay structures, to offer enhanced payments. We have explained this during several meetings with the union. These working arrangements have not changed since 1991, so we are disappointed that the union is taking this action now.

At the moment we do not know how many members of staff intend to go on strike. We may need to ask you to make alternative arrangements to transport your child to school on these days as schools will remain open.

We will contact you next week to confirm details about a possible, limited service for those unable to make other arrangements.

We value our SEND transport team and hope we can resolve this situation soon. We regret the inconvenience and disruption this may cause to you and your child. We will write to give you a further update next week.

Yours sincerely,



**Andrew Lee**  
Assistant Director, Education Services  
Hackney Learning Trust



**Annie Gammon**  
Director of Education / Head of Hackney  
Learning Trust