

# Free transport to “faith schools” axed in Leicester & Bath

Posted: Thu, 11th Apr 2013

Planned changes to school transport have been approved by councillors.

Councillors on Leicester City Council have approved changes to 'home to school' transport that will see an end to subsidies for pupils attending "faith schools" in the City.

The decision — taken despite a consultation showing that most people wanted to keep the subsidies — means free transport to faith schools which are further away than a pupil's nearest school will be axed in the city from September.

Councillor Vi Dempster, assistant city mayor for schools, said the council had little choice as it looked to make budget savings.

She said the city council was still committed to the provision of "excellent statutory services".

Meanwhile, Bath City Council agreed this week to phase out free transport to "faith schools" in Bath and north Somerset.

At a meeting on Wednesday, the Council said it had no option but to end the subsidies, which were costing taxpayers £258,000 a year.

Despite strong pressure from the schools and from parents who will be affected, cabinet members voted unanimously in favour of a phased withdrawal of funding over seven years. This will kick in from September 2014, but in a concession to families, siblings of those already at faith schools will still get the financial support.

Councillor Dine Romero, cabinet member for early years, children and youth, said the council could not afford to keep the funding. She said: "In an ideal world and in the interests of absolute fairness I would want all children going to school free of charge. But these are times of austerity and we need to think really carefully about which discretionary services we need to continue."

- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [Faith schools](#)

## Related Campaigns

•

## **No more faith schools**

We need inclusive schools free from religious discrimination, privilege or control.

[Read More](#)

## **Related Articles**

### **Faith school takeover proceeds despite overwhelming opposition**

NSS: Governors 'concealing' strength of feeling against Church of England ethos. [Read More »](#)

### **NSS announces major conference on protecting liberal values**

Kenan Malik, Joan Smith and more speaking at NSS Secularism 2024 conference in London. [Read More »](#)

### **Allowing more religious selection in schools would be a big mistake**

Abandoning the 50% admission cap would exacerbate the discrimination, disadvantage and division inherent with faith schools, argues Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

### **NSS joins open letter against faith school discrimination**

Education experts, politicians, religious leaders and public figures unite to call on Education Secretary to keep the faith school admissions cap. [Read More »](#)

### **Faith school found inadequate for ten years fails inspection again**

Jewish school where teachers slapped children criticised for poor secular education in latest inspection. [Read More »](#)