

# NSS condemns Flintshire Council's 'discriminatory' transport policy

Posted: Wed, 22nd May 2013

The National Secular Society has criticised a decision by Flintshire Council to discriminate against people without religious faith in its school transport arrangements.

Flintshire Council's cabinet voted on Tuesday to scrap free transport for pupils attending faith schools. However, under the controversial new policy, children who can prove their beliefs with such evidence as baptism certificates will be exempt from the cuts.

The Council has said that withdrawing the discretionary funding could save up to £100,000 a year.

The authority is one of the first in the UK to impose charges for transporting children who cannot prove they share the faith of the school.

A consultation on the proposals received 638 responses, with 542 (85%) strongly disagreeing with the Council's plans.

Stephen Evans, National Secular Society campaigns manager, said: "There is something morally repugnant about a policy that uses the religious beliefs of parents to single out specific children for discrimination in this way.

"Flintshire Council are callously exploiting exemptions to equality legislation that enables faith schools to operate with impunity.

"Their policy decision could result in children who live next door to each other, and travel to the same state funded school being treated unequally, purely on the basis of their parent's religious beliefs. Such discrimination should have no place in modern society.

"The Government must call an end to this discrimination by compelling local authorities to have equitable school transport policies, free from religious privilege, and fair to all families."

- [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

### [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 »](#)

### [NSS urges PM to retain cap on faith-based admissions](#)

Supporters of inclusive schools encouraged to tell MPs to protect the 50% cap. [Read More »](#)