

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**13 September 2011**

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**Public Participation  
Item No. 6 - Denominational Home to School Transport**

**Statement from Mike Corcoran**

By e mail to:-

Jane Scott, Andrew Kerr, Carolyn Godfrey, Sharon Davies, Stephanie Denovan, Francis Morley, all at Wiltshire Council.

Dr Andrew Murrison MP

10 July 2011

Dear all,

**Transport subsidy to faith schools.**

It's disturbing that Wiltshire Council is thinking about stopping the transport subsidy to state schools.

Faith schools, such as St Augustine's in Trowbridge, are amongst the best in the county and country. They tend to be good schools because they provide a discipline and structure which has proven benefits, in exam results, for children from varied social backgrounds.

In stopping this subsidy, at a time when family budgets are under more strain than ever, we are effectively excluding poorer children from some of our best schools. In an era when access to top universities is fast becoming the preserve of a few elite schools, this scrapping of the subsidy will reduce social mobility still further.

Please, preserve meaningful parental choice and continue to give some of our poorer families a chance in life.

Thanks for your time.

Mike Corcoran