

Appendix 2: Analysis of written responses

Analysis of Written Responses on the Website

The major responses to the consultation (raised by 15 or more respondents) are as follows:

Response	Commentary
1. The proposals discriminate against Catholics.	The proposals continue a subsidy for faith home to school transport which is not available for other parents choosing out of catchment schools for reasons other than faith.
2. The proposals will create more traffic on the school run with safety and environmental issues.	This may happen in some cases but the subsidised rate represents good value. HTWM encourages the formation of School Travel Plans.
3. The charges are unaffordable.	A charge will not be made for low income families and a subsidy will continue.
4. The proposals affect families with more children disproportionately.	The Council could set a cap of 2 children charged for. This would cost about £15,000 per year.
5. Faith schools offer a higher standard of education and should be protected.	
6. It is unfair to apply charges to current students whose parents chose schools on the understanding that transport would be free of charge.	The charges would be introduced from September 2008. Taking Key Stage 4 as an indicator, the loss of income from not charging Y11 children is estimated at £45K in 2008/09.
7. Parents of children in voluntary aided denominational schools are asked to pay towards the Diocesan's 10% contribution to capital costs.	This is a voluntary matter for parents.
8. The charges will have a severe impact on parents who do not qualify for benefits but have relatively low incomes.	This inevitably happens with means testing.
9. The proposals remove choice for parents.	Most parents choosing non-catchment schools incur the full cost of transport. Those choosing on denominational grounds will still receive a subsidy on average.
10. Post 16 transport charges should be kept at the £60 level.	No savings would be made on 16+ transport.
11. Increased costs will adversely	Educational Maintenance Allowance

affect and discourage 16+ students.	(EMA) may offset this to some degree.
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Analysis of written responses from the Citizens' Panel

The major responses from the Citizen's Panel (10 responses or more) are as follows:

Response	Commentary
1. If parents opt for an out of catchment school they should contribute to the cost.	This is the current policy for non-denominational transport.
2. The proposals will increase traffic on the school run with an impact on safety and the environment.	The subsidised rate will generally represent good value for money.
3. The proposals discriminate against faith schools	Denominational transport will continue to be subsidised.
4. There should be more walking/cycling to school.	HTWM encourages all schools to promote this in School Transport Plans.

Analysis of written responses in individual letters and e-mails

Issues raised by 10 or more respondents (from 121)

Issue	Commentary
1. These proposals will increase transport on the 'school run' with an impact on the environment and road safety.	Decreases in the take up of transport will be monitored carefully. HWTWM supports the development of school travel plans.
2. These proposals discriminate against Catholics.	If implemented fully the proposals will continue a significant subsidy of the cost of transport to faith schools.
3. The proposals are unaffordable for parents.	Low income families will be exempt from charges.
4. The proposals go against the 1944 Education Act.	The proposals are consistent with the current legislative framework on home to school transport.
5. Parents already pay for this in the Council tax.	About £7M of the £9M cost of home school transport is paid by the Council taxpayer.
6. The proposals destroy the traditional partnership between the LA and the Diocese.	Subsidy of home to school faith transport will continue under these proposals.
7. The proposals are unethical.	See above.
8. Parents contribute to 10% cost of capital costs of Catholic schools.	This is a voluntary payment.