

St. Richard's Catholic College



A Specialist Science College with Leading Edge status

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Principal: A. Campbell O.B.E., M.A., B.Ed., Dip.R.Ed

12 June 2007

Dear Andrew

I am a member of the East Sussex Scrutiny Committee for Children and Young People's Services. I am the statutory co-opted member for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

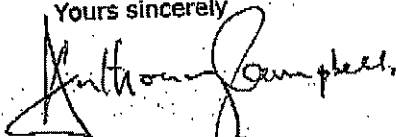
I am calling in the recent decision of The Cabinet to introduce charges for home school transport to church schools. I have been informed that the call in request must be supported by three committee members. The following have given their support to this call in - Mr J Taylor and Mrs S Maynard.

The reasons why the Diocese is asking for the call in are as follows.

1. The response to the Council's consultation was very strongly against the proposals.
2. The Council has failed to provide sufficient or reliable financial information on the likely savings for the decision to be secure.
3. The Council has failed to assess the potential impact of the decision on the pattern of use of school places. The basis for the decision is therefore insecure and could well lead to unforeseen costs, disruption and inefficient use of school places.
4. The Council has failed, despite its claims in the consultation, to demonstrate that equity or fairness is being promoted by the charges. The Council is not introducing a uniform arrangement for everyone.
5. The Council has failed to recognise the huge financial benefit that the churches and their communities provide to the Council by their provision of land, buildings and finance to support state school places in East Sussex.
6. The Council has failed to take account of the recent advice of the Secretary of State. He has reminded Councils that they should not disturb arrangements for denominational transport which were put in place when schools were sited.
7. The Council has failed to take account of the impact of their decision on St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill, which is critically affected by this outcome.
8. The Council has failed to carry out a full assessment or take account of the environmental impact of this decision.

I look forward to receiving by return your written indication of support for a call in before the imminent deadline.

Yours sincerely


 A Campbell OBE

