



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Roman Catholics denied bus service to Protestant school in Eire



A Roman Catholic brother and sister have been refused free travel to the Protestant school they attend in Limerick, having been told the State-funded school bus is for Protestants only.

Limerick City Vocational Educational Committee (VEC) provides a bus for students who attend Villiers School on the North Circular Road.

Harry Gleeson, a Roman Catholic, with a son and daughter attending Villiers, recently applied for bus passes for the bus which passes the road he lives on.

Letter

Last Thursday, he received a letter from the city VEC turning down his application. The letter stated: "Villiers School is a school under Protestant management and only children of Protestant denominations have an entitlement to transport on the special Villiers School bus service."

Mr Gleeson said when he contacted the VEC about the reason for the refusal, he was told "that was it!"

Mr Gleeson, a financial consultant, said: "I was stunned and amazed in this day and age that a public body could send out a letter like that. If I have a Protestant neighbour with children at Villiers, the State will provide them with school transport but not my children. The bus passes the end of the road we live on, but because my children are Catholic, they cannot get on it."

STOP PRESS. Bus passes have been issued by the school bus authority to the two school children!