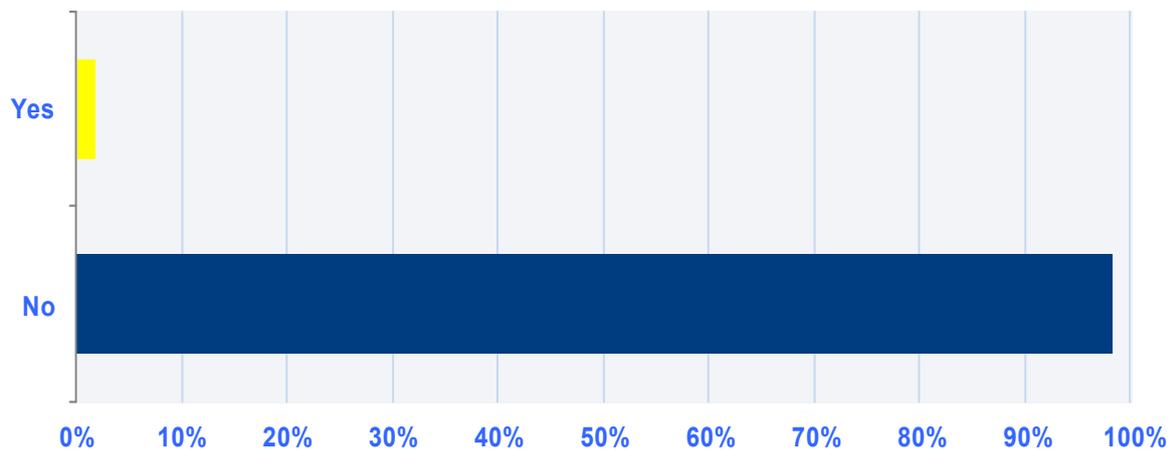




## Should Christmas Carols Be Banned In SA Public Schools?



The South Australian education department has released a new policy for religious activities in schools. Among other topics, it specifically references Christmas carols in our public schools.

The policy possibly implies that Christmas carols are faith-based messages and that schools must not promote a specific set of religious beliefs. Further comments from the State Government have not resolved the confusion.

While we wait for clarification on what the new Christmas carol section of the policy means, we asked what you think....

In an emphatic result, in answer to the question, 'should Christmas carols be banned from SA public schools':

- 1.62% - voted yes to a ban
- 98.38% - voted no to a ban.

1,179 individual responses were received.

Of these, only 19 people supported a ban on Christmas carols in our public schools.

- 86.98% of respondents were parents.
- 43.89% of respondents work in schools.

Hundreds of comments were also recorded with the survey responses.

Common themes of comments were:

- The policy is political correctness in the extreme.
- Christmas is a time of peace, joy an celebration, for all - not necessarily religious.
- The SA education department has more important things to focus on.
- Christianity is a significant religion in Australia and should be celebrated without prejudice, along with other religions.

*"Please don't ban carols, they are a wonderful way of bringing the whole school community together. I have 3 kids and they love signing them."*

*"....I think someone has too much time on their hands."*

*"...Time for the SA Education Department to stop trying to find ways to make waves and actually do something to strengthen learning in our schools."*

## Selected Comments



Xmas carols signal a time of peace and goodwill, something that is desperately lacking in society. I'm not a Christian but surely we shouldn't be trying to please everyone all the time.

Yes it is in line with a religious holiday but many non-religious people celebrate Christmas. I think banning it would disadvantage the many kids who do celebrate Christmas & those believe in Santa.

Can't see why carols should be banned, it is conveying the actual message of the season.

Our current school which is very multi cultural does not ban Christmas carols and has no intention to do so.

What a ridiculous idea, children should be able to sing and enjoy Christmas songs as a part of celebrating Christmas (as far as I'm aware we still celebrate Christmas and other Christian holidays in Australia). Let kids be kids and have fun without overanalysing everything.

All cultures & religions should have the opportunity to be taught, learned & celebrated.

Stop wasting time on trivia and get on with educating our students. Surely Christmas carols are just one of many things that students will experience in their life time.

Sick and tired of the need to be seen as 'politically correct' all of the time. If other minority groups/religious beliefs can't accept that we are a Christian nation founded on Christian beliefs, then they can find somewhere else to be.

No all carols are "religion based" and I believe it is imperative that children learn other cultures. Australians study other cultures so why is it even a discussion topic??

It seems that being politically correct all the time is now going to be taking all the fun out of learning and soon there will be nothing they can do for fun etc.

things are getting out of hand if parents don't want their kids taking part in a Carols Night at school then stay home, don't deny others the joy of the season. I don't follow any belief or religion I just love Christmas and everything that goes with.

The school system is becoming outrageous in being so politically correct. I say leave the same, there is lots in the school curriculum which we all agree and disagree with.

To ban Christmas Carols or any Christmas celebration in our Australian Schools, is Political Correctness gone mad!

Please don't suck the joy out of Christmas.

I am an agnostic, but the idea that my girls and their friends would be prohibited from singing songs that have been and still are central to our culture's celebration of Christmas is abhorrent and deeply disturbing to me.

They are a part of our way of life so they should stay.

I think this is disgusting I'm not religious but I think the children singing Christmas carols at school is lovely why should we give up our customs to make others happy.

Banning carols is like banning Christmas pageants that occur all over the state. People that are of no religion still sing carols and go to pageants. If this is the case our shops should not be allowed to sell Easter eggs as they are a religious symbol.

We should celebrate more diversity not less.

Enjoy the spirit and good feeling of Christmas. Don't ban them. What a stupid idea!!

Bit by bit western culture is being eroded from within. Bureaucrats are slowly trying to bring a hate culture into education and then they will say, "It's what the people want". Good luck with that, the sheep will follow and those with commonsense and empathy, won't.

We live in a multi cultural society, so singing Christmas carols should be allowed, everyone has a right to express their own religion/cultural beliefs, as well as learn about everyone else's.

Christmas carols are part of our culture - it doesn't matter if you are religious or not. If you are going to ban Christmas carols then you should ban the holidays associated with Christmas and Easter based as they are celebrations based on religious beliefs.

Ridiculous idea! Just how PC have we become?

They should absolutely not be banned! We are not a church attending family but Christmas carols are about more than Christianity, they are about the coming together of people and children and spreading joy!

Political correctness gone way too far.

Australia is first and foremost a Christian country. Why shouldn't students in Australian schools be able to sing/listen to what is essentially a part of our Australian culture.

Christmas carols are a tradition. They promote Christmas and the joy of giving. Carols are from all nations. We study them as part of Christmas traditions from around the world.

I see Christmas carols as culturally appropriate in Australia. I also support public schools teaching about other cultures and religious practices.

Political correctness is just going to the extreme. This country was based on Christian values, and carols are entrenched in our culture. Can't we just embrace diversity, rather than constantly worrying we will offend someone else, and in so doing lose our history and direction.

As a Christian country it has been tradition to have carols in schools. No countries of other faiths would change their laws or traditions for Christian residents. It is Political Correctness gone insane.

Xmas carols bring positive messages of love and celebration for everyone regardless of their religious beliefs.

Christmas is a beautiful time of the year. Some kids/families find it a hard time, but to make it a little bit fun by singing, what's the harm. Some people aren't religious, but it is then an opportunity for students to experience someone else's world, its like learning a language or learning about a country.

## Selected Comments



Where does it stop! Ban faith based carols then the word Christmas shouldn't be used as it contains the word Christ, which is the sole purpose of this festive season. It really is coming down to the "Grinch who stole Christmas".

They have been sung in schools for years without any dire consequence, I think someone has too much time on their hands.

School Christmas concerts are a part of tradition and must not be taken away.

I have no objection to carols being sung, so long as songs of other traditions also have a chance to be sung throughout the year as appropriate. Bear in mind that some 'Christmas' songs are completely secular. Jingle Bells and Winter Wonderland come to mind.

Christmas is celebrated in Australia and is a part of Australian traditions and should therefore be recognised in our schools just as we acknowledge other countries traditions. We are becoming so concerned about offending people from other cultures that we are ending up by offending our own people and forgoing our own customs!

Because Christmas carols are not sung to enforce any religion, it could easily become more diverse and sing other religion songs and not exclude a tradition which has established Australian culture. By not singing them I believe is being racist and exclusive.

Christmas is a public holiday and a tradition of the heritage of our country. Why would we want to abandon our heritage. If we are going to ban Christmas carols, any form of religious song should also be banned. Who is pushing this nanny state agenda? Why can't people make up their own minds like they always have? No one is proselytising through Christmas carols.

We have acknowledged other faiths, the Christian faith should still be acknowledged, not banned or ignored for fear of upsetting other faiths.

We promote a multi cultural society and draw from many cultures to celebrate throughout the year so why shouldn't we use Christmas carols as they are part of cultural celebrations from many countries including Australia.

It's discrimination in reverse. Christmas carols are all around us at that time of year.... not all Christmas carols are focusing on the birth of Christ but a festive season ... we wish you a merry Xmas!!

No because there is nothing wrong with Christmas carols no matter what religion. Poor kids it Christmas.

Carols are traditional Christmas songs that are entrenched in the culture of Christmas celebrations. Christmas without carols just isn't Christmas.

Common carols (jingle bells etc) that are jolly create community and enjoyment. The familiar helps everyone join in.

We are a multi cultural state in state schools we celebrate Ramadan, Moon festival etc so why are we singling out the Christian celebration? We want to inform and teach.

Why are we becoming so 'politically correct'. If people don't want to be involved, then so be it. Should we take away the rights of the many, for the few?

We are a Christian country and Carols are part of Christmas celebrations all over the world. A lot of carols are songs about the trimmings of the holiday and meals provided rather than religious based and so it would be a sorry state to stop the children enjoying the songs.

Christmas is a holiday that is celebrated here and the carols are connected to this.

I see nothing wrong with Christmas carols.

How ridiculous to suggest it. For the moment, the majority of people in this country identify as Christian. It is part of our cultural heritage. Thailand manage to play Christmas carols in what is a Buddhist country, as does Singapore. Surely it should be possible to allow all cultural traditions to be observed respectfully?

I can't believe that this would ever be considered !!!

we already do plenty in school to be inclusive of other cultures - why should we take things from our culture out to satisfy the needs and wants of other cultures?

Diversity means learning about all religions.

Rules are always changing to suit the minority.

Ridiculous idea.

I am an atheist, but would rather folks invested time in bigger issues.

Multi culturalism is great but at school in Australia, the Australia curriculum is taught so Xmas carols are an Australian tradition and probably a tradition thru out many other countries they need to stay.

Carols are a part of Australian culture and should be part of school life as we embrace everyone's songs and music from around the world.

The premise of this question is ridiculous. Banning Christmas Carols is banning a part of the excitement of Christmas. What a nonsense. No one objects, especially not other religions as they understand ideas like this, so why do it other than to appease some extremists?

Christmas is now a secular celebration so why should it be banned in secular schools?

Are you for real? Carols are a part of Christmas in this country so unless you are suggesting we get rid of Christmas in Australia, then Carols must stay!! What you are suggesting to ban Christmas Carols is totally ludicrous and insulting to me. Get a life.

I am sick of the political correctness of the Department. Christmas is a part of the Australian culture and carols have ethical messages which are universal.

Do not give in to the loud minority's . Christmas carols are other cultural tradition!

Christmas is a public holiday in Australia, a part of our Australian culture. When i teach about Christmas, we look at traditions from many countries those who do and don't celebrate Christmas and what they do instead. We sing songs from many countries, cultures and celebrations. Banning them is just ridiculous.

## Selected Comments



I am opposed to all faith based teaching in public schools in any form. But think that as a parent I would make a complaint if I thought this was happening. A blanket ban just dis-empowers people.

More than carols, include songs of joy from other denominations.

Carols are a tradition of our society, not just a religious based message

We should keep our traditions of Australia and not have to change them for people who come to live here from other countries

They are apart of our traditions and culture and children should know that.

If we cant have Christmas Carols then why are we having Christmas holidays etc. It is definitely something we should be able to keep in our schools. It is sometimes the only bit of Christmas spirit some children get which they love.

Recognising and celebrating our Christian heritage is just as important as recognising and celebrating our Indigenous heritage.

Surely the department has better things to do.

Quite ridiculous anti religious political correctness

We live in a Christian country. I do not believe we should ban carols or any other Christian practices in our schools. We need to be sympathetic and respectful to all religions

How ridiculous. Of course Christmas carols shouldn't be banned. If you are going to ban carols for this reason then Christmas needs to be banned entirely because Christmas is a Christian holiday.

Christmas carols provide an uplifting message of hope & peace. That, surely, is something that every soul innately desires.

Christmas cards and carols have been in our schools for over a century and done no harm.

We are a country with many religions but are predominantly Christian, we respect all other religions so why is ours not being respected.

A ridiculous suggestion to even contemplate Bureaucracy gone mad Entertaining minorities again

This is a ridiculous notion and once again leaves public schools open to ridicule.

What a joke

Please expend as much energy on teaching my children to spell as you are in worrying about those people who xmas carols might offend.

Nonsense like this is why our kids are failing naplan

Time for the SA Education Department to stop trying to find ways to make waves and actually do something to strengthen learning in our schools. Remember that South Australian School students ranked WORST performing in the country for NAPLAN testing in most categories. Move away from debating Christmas carols, and work out how to change poor performance of schools.

No Christian celebrations should be banned from our schools.

You should get rid of the Christian school chaplains instead. Oh right, that saves you money so that's ok right. . . don't principals call that an extra pair of hands?

This is our Australian tradition our kids of today are missing out on these great memories.

Carols are festive based.

It is slightly hypocritical that much of Australian society celebrates the giving of presents and celebration of Christmas but bickers over singing carols.

Christmas is not treated as a religious celebration. It is unfair for all children to miss out on the joy of Christmas for a small minority.

There will soon be nothing left for kids to celebrate in schools

Absolutely disgraceful proposition that we would ban Christmas carols. This PC-gone-mad nonsense is getting beyond a joke.

Christmas carols are not all with Christian messages, they are of Hope, Peace, Joy & Goodwill to all mankind and sharing those messages with the World. These are part of our Australian Heritage, culture and way of life for decades.

They are joyful. It would be a tragedy to ban carols and it would be damaging to the integration of all, as this could cause major resentments.

Children love Christmas carols and I don't believe they see them as a faith based exercise. Australia is a Christian based country and I believe Christmas carols should stay within the schools.

Christmas carols have always been a part of our Australian Culture. Why are we losing so much of our Australian identity without fighting for our culture. Our Culture is slowly being absorbed into the Identities of other world cultures and we have nothing to of ourselves to pass onto our children.

Why do we always have to pander to other cultures and religious beliefs?

Those that seek to ban Christmas carols are not being inclusive and multicultural; they seek to be exclusive yet would not wish it upon themselves. Let us embrace our diversity and this is just one aspect of it. Do not ban Christmas carols in our schools.

Tradition is important, many families still enjoy Carols such as The Domain and the like and thousands still flock to local Carols in hundreds of Communities Australia wide.

Why ban a harmless traditions in our schools that a great percentage of Australians enjoy. I am not a practicing Christian but I still enjoy the spirit of Christmas.

I'm not religious at all but this is ridiculous! Christmas carols have been around forever. If Christmas carols are banned...what next?? Ban all Christmas celebrations from school as well???

A great new way to cause tension between schools and parents!

Please don't ban carols, they are a wonderful way of bringing the whole school community together. I have 3 kids and they love signing them.