

National Poll on Attitudes to Christian Schools

Executive Summary



Nearly
80%

of Australians support the right of a religious school to **employ teachers and other staff who support the clearly stated values and beliefs of the school**

Over
90%

of parents with children in a faith-based school support this right



More than
90%

of Christian school parents support terminating the employment of staff if they no longer share these beliefs



In the latest polling, over
80%

of Australians consistently believe that Australian laws should **protect the right to hold and practice religious beliefs**. This figure has been increasing since 2019.

98% of Australians actively practicing a faith say this should be protected

Over
90%

of parents sending their children to faith-based schools and over 75% of all Australians support the right of a religious school to **enforce standards of uniform and behaviour consistent with their values and beliefs**



More than
70%

Similarly, over **70% of parents** sending their children to faith-based schools support the right of a religious school to be able to **teach students their values and beliefs about gender, sexuality and marriage**, with this supported by a majority of all voters



More than
80%

Not only do over 80% of those actively practicing a religious faith support these protections, but they were also **supported by a majority of voters not actively practicing any religious faith**



94%
of all voters

support the right of parents to **choose a school that reflects their strongly held values and beliefs**.



84%
of all voters

support the right of all students to receive some level of **taxpayer funding**, which is consistent with previous results.



ACS

Associated Christian Schools
Christian education for the common good



AUSTRALIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF CHRISTIAN
SCHOOLS



CHRISTIAN
SCHOOLS
Australia

National Poll on Attitudes to Christian Schools

Do you support the right of a religious school to employ teachers and other staff who support the values and beliefs of the school, if those values and beliefs are clearly stated?

Political Affiliation	Labor Party	Liberal Party	Nationals	Greens	Independent	One Nation	Other	Totals
Yes	75.0	87.7	92.3	65.2	77.7	78.0	84.9	78.8
No	25.0	12.3	7.7	34.8	22.3	22.0	15.1	21.2
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Do you believe that Australian laws should uphold and protect the universal human right to hold and practice religious beliefs?

Political Affiliation	Labor Party	Liberal Party	Nationals	Greens	Independent	One Nation	Other	Totals
Yes	82.9	86.0	89.7	77.6	77.7	78.0	83.0	82.7
No	17.1	14.0	10.3	22.4	22.3	22.0	17.0	17.3
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Do you support the right of parents to choose a school that reflects their strongly held values and beliefs?

Political Affiliation	Labor Party	Liberal Party	Nationals	Greens	Independent	One Nation	Other	Totals
Yes	92.9	96.3	100	89.1	94.7	87.9	98.1	93.7
No	7.1	3.7	0	10.9	5.3	12.1	1.9	6.3
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Do you support the right of all students to receive some level of taxpayer funding to support their education?

Political Affiliation	Labor Party	Liberal Party	Nationals	Greens	Independent	One Nation	Other	Totals
Yes	83.9	87.3	94.9	79.1	79.8	79.1	75.5	83.9
No	16.1	12.7	5.1	20.9	20.2	20.9	24.5	16.1
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Do you support the right of a religious school to enforce standards of uniform and behaviour consistent with their values and beliefs?

Political Affiliation	Labor Party	Liberal Party	Nationals	Greens	Independent	One Nation	Other	Totals
Yes	74.8	86.7	87.2	60.2	73.4	81.3	75.5	77.0
No	25.2	13.3	12.8	39.8	26.6	18.7	24.5	23.0
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Should religious schools be able to teach students their values and beliefs about gender, sexuality, and marriage?

Political Affiliation	Labor Party	Liberal Party	Nationals	Greens	Independent	One Nation	Other	Totals
Yes	58.2	66.2	53.8	34.3	44.7	65.9	50.9	56.9
No	41.8	33.8	46.2	65.7	55.3	34.1	49.1	43.1
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



This independent national research was completed by Compass Polling on behalf of an alliance of Australian Christian Schools using a national weighted sample of 1,713 via online panels. The sample are representative of the Australian population on key demographics reflected in the 2021 Census. The polling was conducted from 1-16 March 2024.