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# Daily Mail .com

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## Parents' dismay as principal bans all use of 'Christmas' and 'Santa Claus' – and Thanksgiving will be replaced by 'harvest festival'

- Principal Eujin Jaela Kim, 33, of PS 169 has outlawed angels, Santa and stars in decorations
- Santa Claus has been designated an 'other religious figure' by staff in the Brooklyn primary school
- [New York City](#) Department of Education prohibits displays that 'depict images of deities, religious figures or religious texts'

By [Isabel Hunter For Mailonline](#)

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Principal Eujin Jaela Kim has banned the use of 'Christmas' and 'Santa Clause' at her primary school in Brooklyn, NYC

A New York City primary school principal has been accused of banning the mention of Christmas by parents.

Principal Eujin Jaela Kim reportedly scrubbed out any mention of the word 'Christmas', 'Santa Claus' and forbade explicit Christmas decorations.

'We definitely can't say Christmas, nothing with Christmas on it, nothing with Santa,' PTA president Mimi Ferrer said administrators told her.

'No angels. We can't even have a star because it can represent a religious system, like the Star of David,' she told the [New York Post](#).

In place of holidays with religious symbolism, children at PS 169 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn were instead encouraged to celebrate a 'harvest festival instead of Thanksgiving or a winter celebration instead of a Christmas party' by assistant principal Jose Chaparro.

Ms Kim, 33, was in talks with the Superintendent this morning, the MailOnline has learned, and was not immediately available for comment.

A memo last month from Mr Chaparro urged staff to 'be sensitive of the diversity of our families. Not all children celebrate the same holidays.'

The school lists its 1,661 school roll as Asian 51 per cent, Black, 1 per cent, Hispanic, 43 per cent, and 4 per cent White.

In 2014-2015 snapshot, only 27 percent of the school's teachers said that the principal communicated a clear vision for the school.

The New York City Department of Education recently clarified to schools permitted holiday symbols including Christmas trees, kinaras (candleholders for Kwanzaa), dreidels, Hanukkah menorahs and the Islamic star-and-crescent.

The directive said that displays that 'depict images of deities, religious figures or religious texts' are prohibited.

In a bid to clarify to important position of Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, PS 169 business manager Johanna Bjorken made an addition to the memo.

'In case you are wondering about grey areas: Santa Claus is considered an 'other religious figure.'

However a Department of Education official confirmed to the New York Post that Santa is allowed as a secular figure.

The Post also reports that the previous acting principal said state Assemblyman Felix Ortiz visited the school dressed as Santa 'many times'.



**Happy Holidays: Staff at PS 169 in Brooklyn, New York City have been encourage to celebrate 'Harvest Festivals' and 'Winter Celebrations' instead of Thanksgiving and Christmas**



**Banned: Santa has been classified as a 'religious figure' by the school, although New York City Education Department has ruled him secular**



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[Cate Donovan](#), Boston, United States, 1 month ago

worse to exclude holidays and pretend that everyone is exactly the same. That is what causes a lot of bad feelings.

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3

4



[lo T.](#), Alhambra, United States, 1 month ago

Birthday Jesus! Rejoice, Jesus Christ is Lord! If you ban Jesus from your life, Jesus will ban you from His.

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23

1



[Cate Donovan](#), Boston, United States, 1 month ago

Jesus has nothing to do with Santa Claus or Christmas trees.

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[Cate Donovan](#), Boston, United States, 1 month ago

Jesus has nothing to do with Santa Claus or Christmas trees.

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[Thompson](#), Willcox Arizona, United States, 1 month ago

the putrid behavior of those with no nationalist backbone. Maybe if they fight and die for their constitution in their own country they would have their own country! Quit messing with our nations! Bleed American or British or Irish or Scottish or European, or Scandinavian, or Russian, or chinese or Japanese or GET OUT!

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11

0



[Y](#), 1 month ago

or ass back to Asia! It's the same ole crap- these people want to live in this country, then change it to what their native land customs are..

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12

0



[ombat](#), Bayside, United States, 1 month ago

ot should be fired and fast!!!

Click to rate

12

0



Auchtermuchty, United Kingdom, 1 month ago

Probably the principal has NO QUALMS accepting his salary in US dollars, inscribed with the non-religious text "In God we trust"? Will he support observing the Lunar new Year / Chinese New Year / Tet coming up in February?

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[lume](#), Watertown, United States, 1 month ago

Liberals Your ideology has come home to roost.

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, NWales, 1 month ago

People are only happy when they have sucked all the joy out of other people's lives.

Click to rate ↑ 32 ↓ 0



[talkombat](#), Bayside, United States, 1 month ago

You know the saying...misery loves company...and loony is miserable.

Click to rate ↑ 6 ↓ 0



, orrs island, 1 month ago

wasn't this subtle.

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[love](#), taylors, United States, 1 month ago

Is she, a Druid?!? Don't they realize the none religious holiday names are pagan... which IS a religion.

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[rth love](#), taylors, United States, 1 month ago

Non..... not none sorry.

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[ley Cate Donovan](#), Boston, United States, 1 month ago

Good point. Harvest Festival and Winter Celebration are religious to some people. Santa Claus is not a religious symbol.

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