



## Is it important to fit in at school?

(Primary, Secondary & College)

13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Sample of 26,949 students

If you want more information of the exact split of the sample size across the different categories below, please contact us at [lara@votesforschools.com](mailto:lara@votesforschools.com).

### Question Primary & Secondary:

"Is it important to fit in at school?"

### Question Secondary 16+ & College:

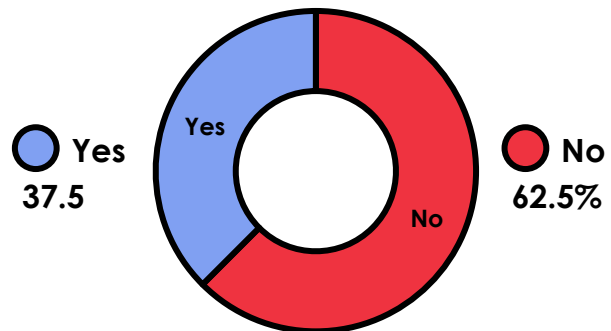
"Do labels unite us?"

As part of **Anti-Bullying Week 2020** we asked Primary and Secondary students "Is it important to fit in at school?" and College students "Do labels unite us?".

### Grand Total

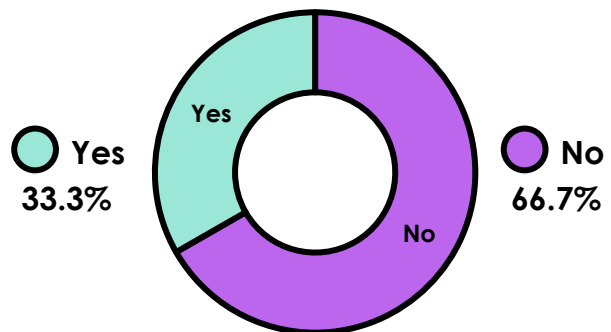
Primary:

Yes	37.50%
No	62.50%



Secondary:

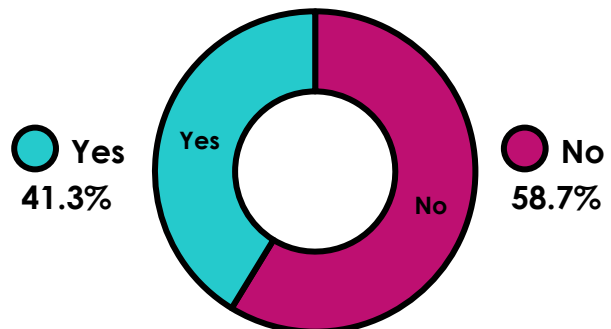
Yes	33.28%
No	66.72%



Secondary 16+ & College:

"Do labels unite us?"

Yes	41.27%
No	58.73%



**Be informed.**



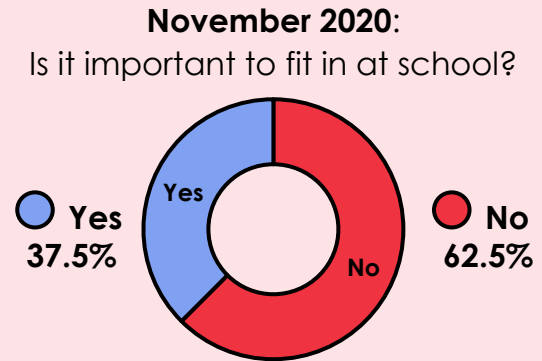
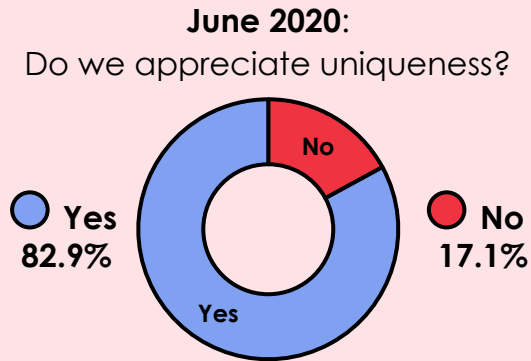
**Be curious.**



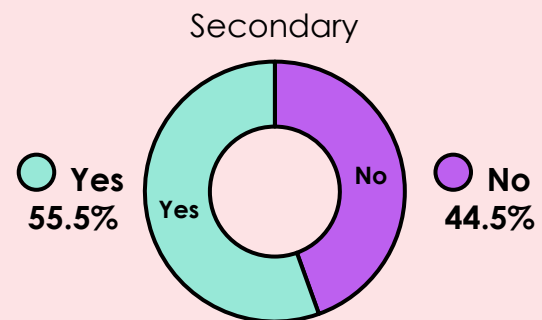
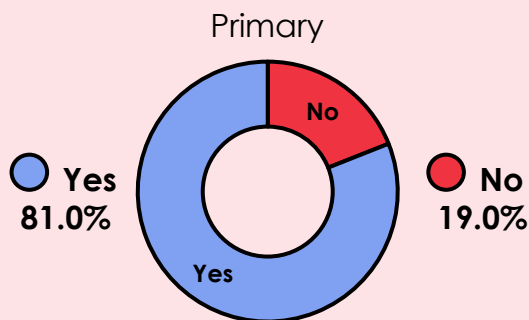
**Be heard.**



In June 2020, during the week of 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June, we asked **Primary pupils** “Do we appreciate uniqueness?”. This is what pupils thought, compared to this week’s VoteTopic:



For last year’s anti-bullying week, we asked **Primary and Secondary students** “Do you think it is possible to reduce bullying in your school?”. This were the results in November 2019:



### Gender

Primary: “Is it important to fit in at school?”

	Yes	No
Female	35.36%	64.64%
Male	38.78%	61.22%
Diverse*	50.00%	50.00%

Secondary: “Is it important to fit in at school?”

	Yes	No
Female	28.68%	71.32%
Male	36.33%	63.67%
Diverse*	45.06%	54.94%

\*Votes collected as “Diverse” include students that identify as gender diverse, as well as students that wish not to disclose or were not able to specify their gender.



**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**



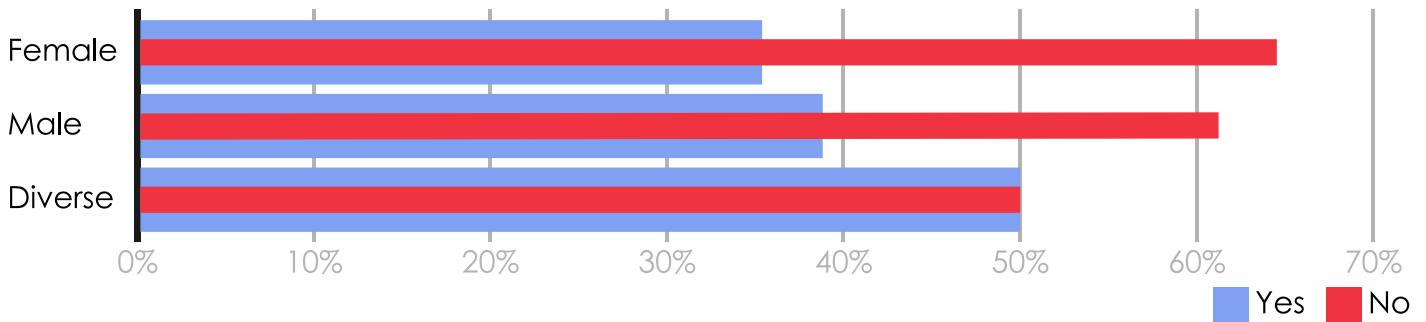
**Be heard.**



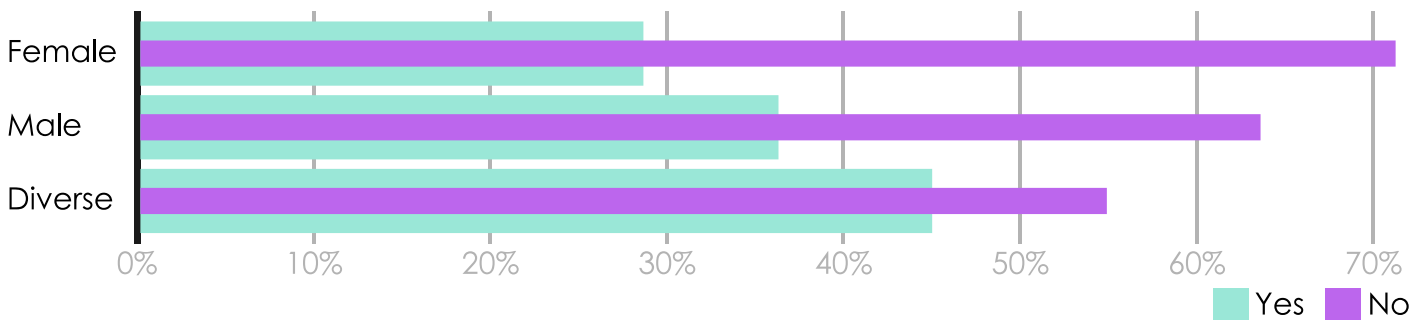
### Secondary 16+ & College: "Do labels unite us?"

	Yes	No
Female	30.09%	69.91%
Male	40.49%	59.51%
Diverse*	48.13%	51.87%

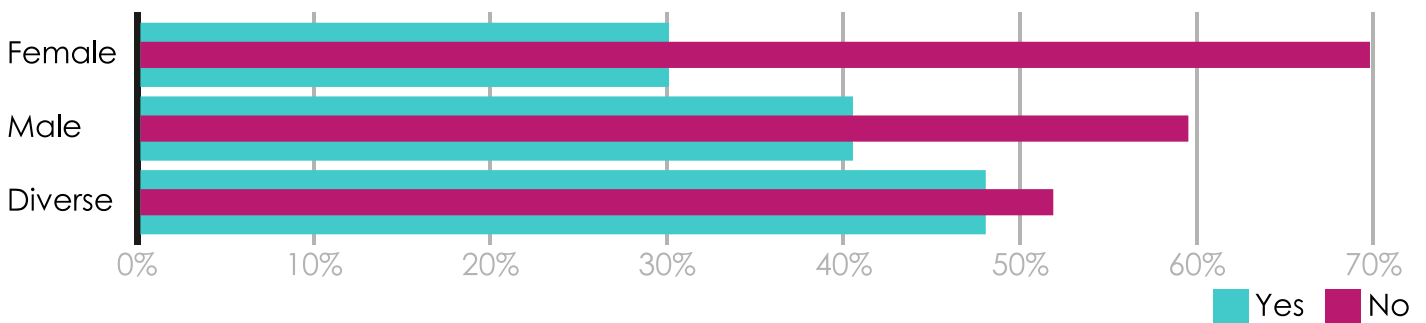
### Primary: "Is it important to fit in at school?"



### Secondary: "Is it important to fit in at school?"



### Secondary 16+ & College: "Do labels unite us?"



Across all school types, **female voters represented the biggest portion of No votes: 64.6% of female Primary pupils, 71.3% of female Secondary students and 69.9% of female College students.** As a result, female Primary pupils were 2.1% above the average of all Primary pupils combined voting No, female Secondary students were 4.6% above the average of all Secondary votes and female College students were 11.2% above the average of all College votes combined.

Across the board, male voters had the second largest portion of No votes, after female voters, with **3.4% fewer male Primary pupils** voting No compared to female pupils, **7.6% fewer male Secondary students** voting No and **10.4%**



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

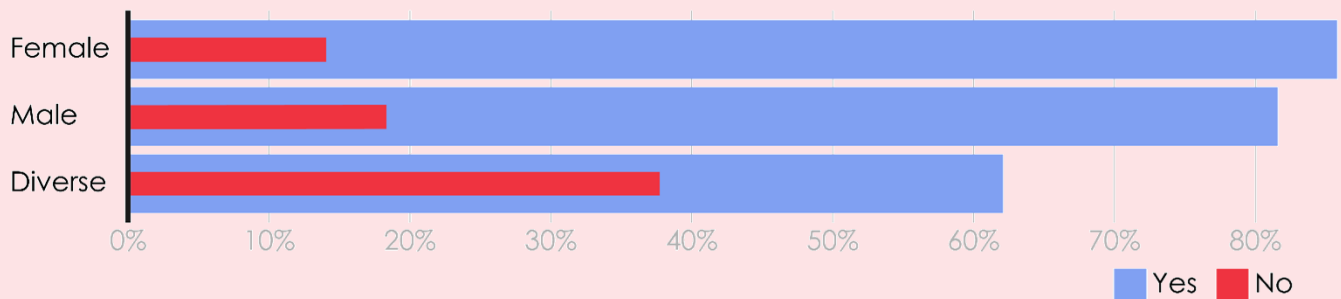


**fewer male College students** voting No compared to female students.

**Diverse voters** represented the **smallest portion of No votes: 50% of female Primary pupils, 54.9% of female Secondary students** and **51.9% of female College students**. As a result, female Primary pupils were 12.5% below the average of all Primary pupils combined voting No, female Secondary students were 11.8% below the average of all Secondary votes and female College students were 6.9% below the average of all College votes combined.

When we asked Primary Pupils **“Do we appreciate uniqueness?”** in **June 2020**, during the week of 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June, this is how the vote differentiated across female, male, and diverse pupils:

### Primary



### Age

Primary & Secondary: “Is it important to fit in at school?”

Year Group	Yes	No
1	53.38%	46.62%
2	52.66%	47.34%
3	44.07%	55.93%
4	29.95%	70.05%
5	26.82%	73.18%
6	25.02%	74.98%
7	29.47%	70.53%
8	32.48%	67.52%
9	37.91%	62.09%
10	34.57%	65.43%
11	32.00%	68.00%
12	32.81%	67.19%
13	23.30%	76.70%



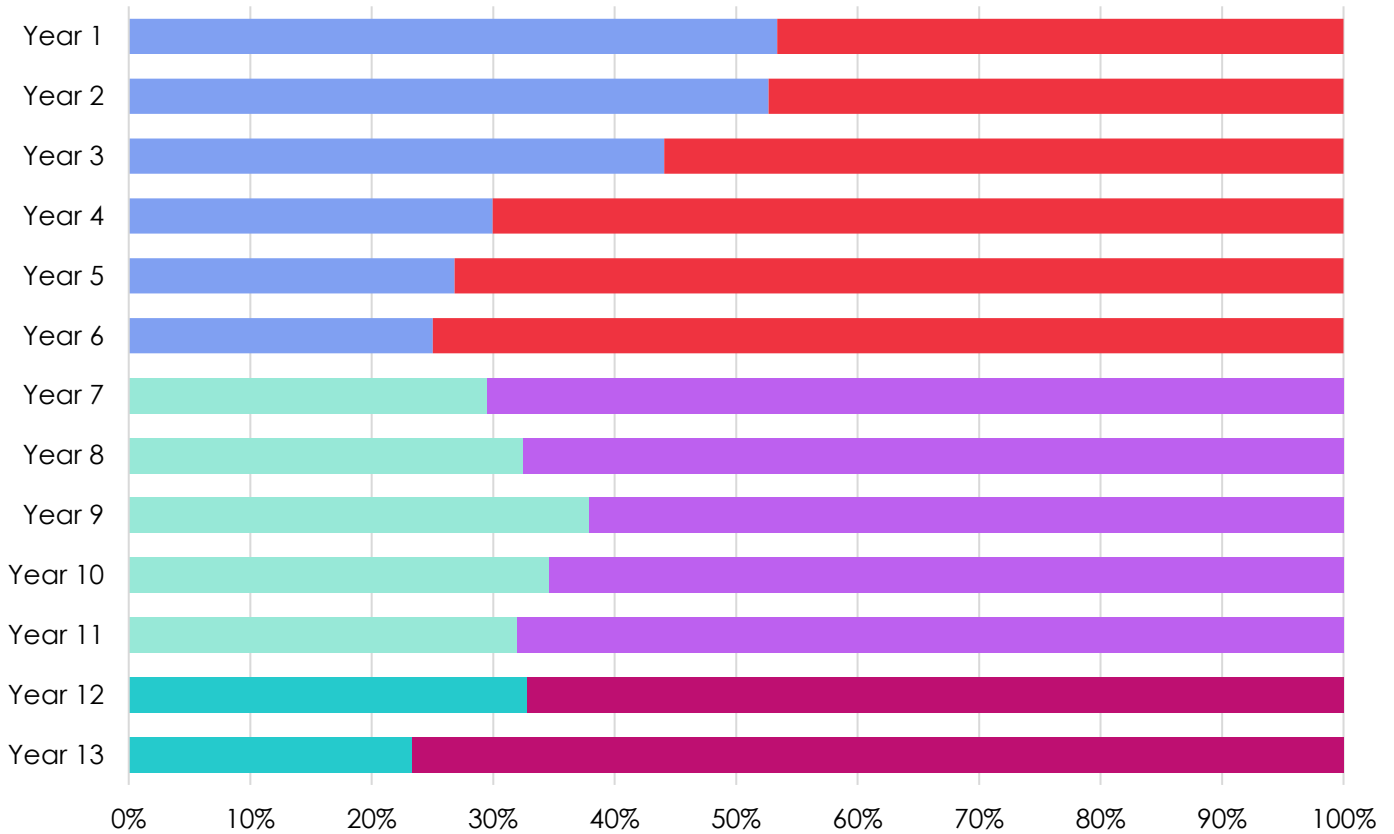
**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**

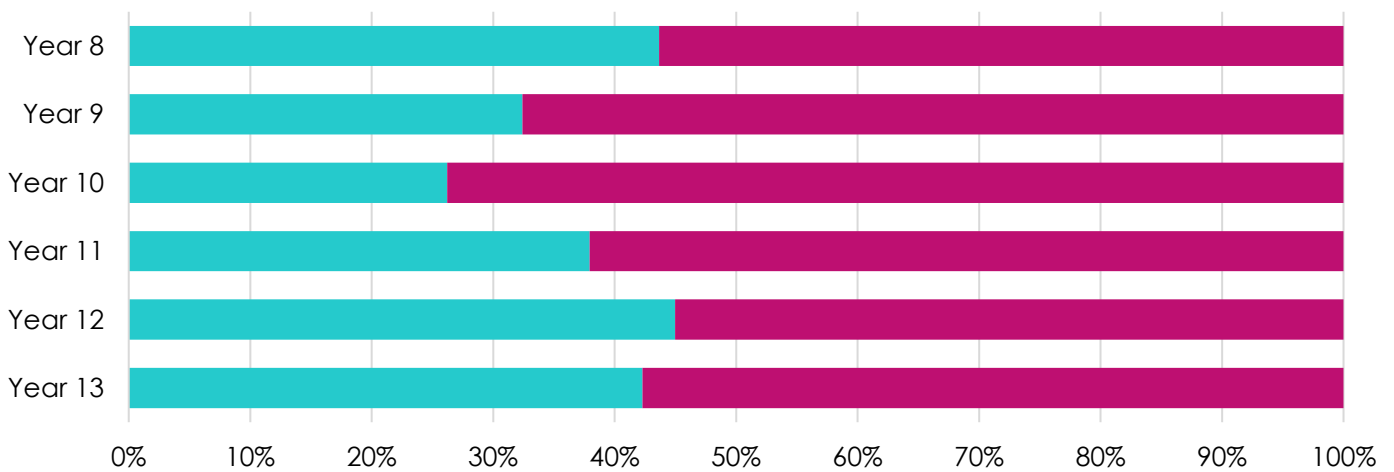


**Be heard.**



### Secondary 16+ & College: "Do labels unite us?"

Year Group	Yes	No
8	43.65%	56.35%
9	32.41%	67.59%
10	26.21%	73.79%
11	37.93%	62.07%
12	44.97%	55.03%
13	42.30%	57.70%



**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**



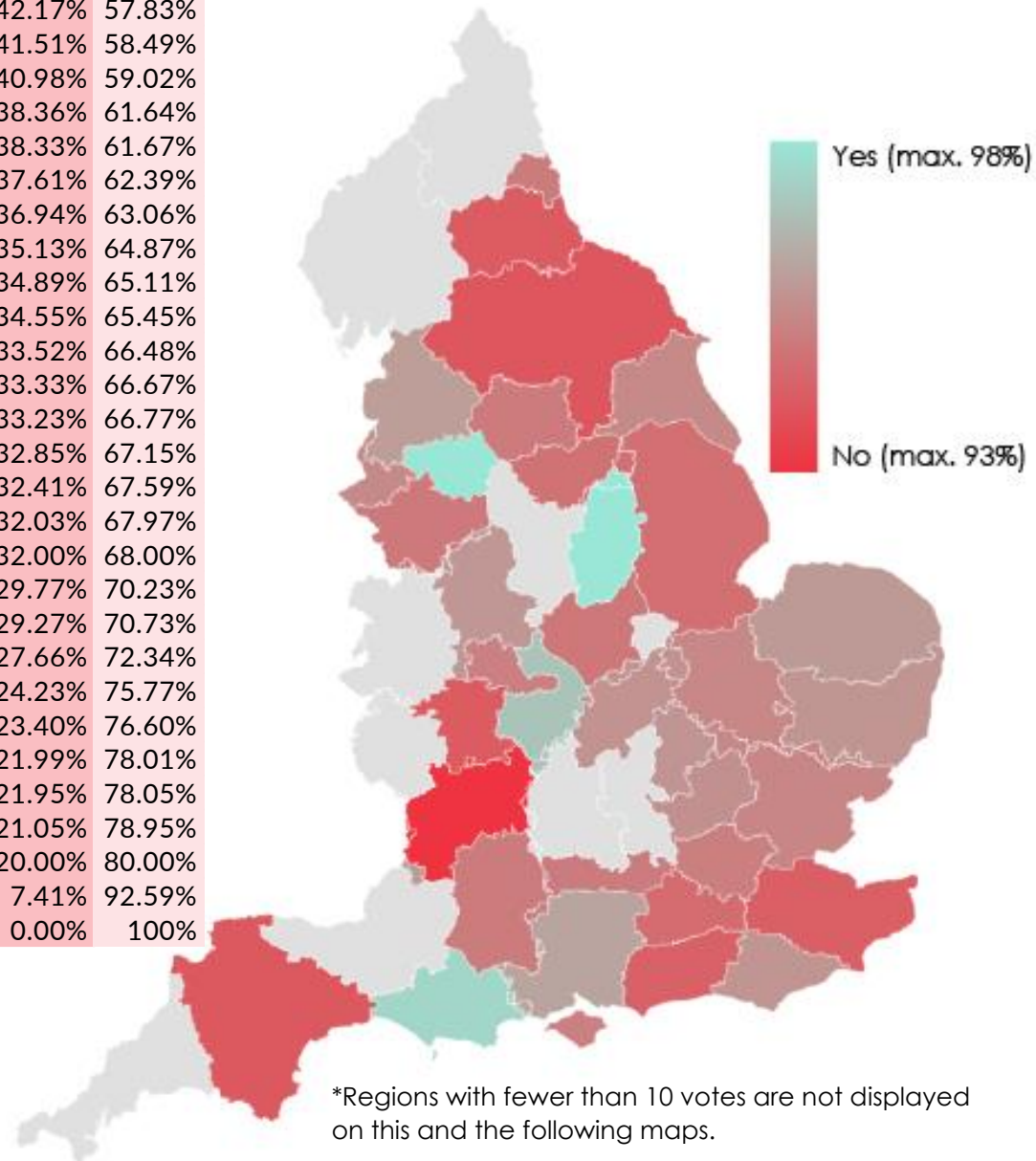
**Be heard.**



## Location

Primary, Secondary & College:

County	Yes	No
Greater Manchester	97.56%	2.44%
Nottinghamshire	71.43%	28.57%
Dorset	65.52%	34.48%
Warwickshire	58.82%	41.18%
Hampshire	47.75%	52.25%
Lancashire	45.32%	54.68%
Bristol	45.08%	54.92%
Greater London	44.63%	55.37%
Norfolk	43.99%	56.01%
Staffordshire	43.02%	56.98%
Bedfordshire	42.41%	57.59%
East Sussex	42.31%	57.69%
Suffolk	42.17%	57.83%
Northamptonshire	41.51%	58.49%
Hertfordshire	40.98%	59.02%
Merseyside	38.36%	61.64%
East Riding of Yorkshire	38.33%	61.67%
Cambridgeshire	37.61%	62.39%
Essex	36.94%	63.06%
West Midlands	35.13%	64.87%
Isle of Wight	34.89%	65.11%
North Yorkshire	34.55%	65.45%
Berkshire	33.52%	66.48%
Tyne & Wear	33.33%	66.67%
Wiltshire	33.23%	66.77%
West Yorkshire	32.85%	67.15%
Cheshire	32.41%	67.59%
Leicestershire	32.03%	67.97%
London	32.00%	68.00%
South Yorkshire	29.77%	70.23%
Lincolnshire	29.27%	70.73%
Surrey	27.66%	72.34%
West Sussex	24.23%	75.77%
Kent	23.40%	76.60%
Durham	21.99%	78.01%
Worcestershire	21.95%	78.05%
Devon	21.05%	78.95%
Cleveland	20.00%	80.00%
Gloucestershire	7.41%	92.59%
Oxfordshire	0.00%	100%



**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**



**Be heard.**

Demtech Ltd T/A: VotesforSchools  
 CRN 09940208, registered in England and Wales  
 33 Lowndes Street, London, SW1X 9HX  
 Office Address: Unit LMLF 2.4, The Leather Market,  
 Weston Street, London Bridge, SE1 3ER

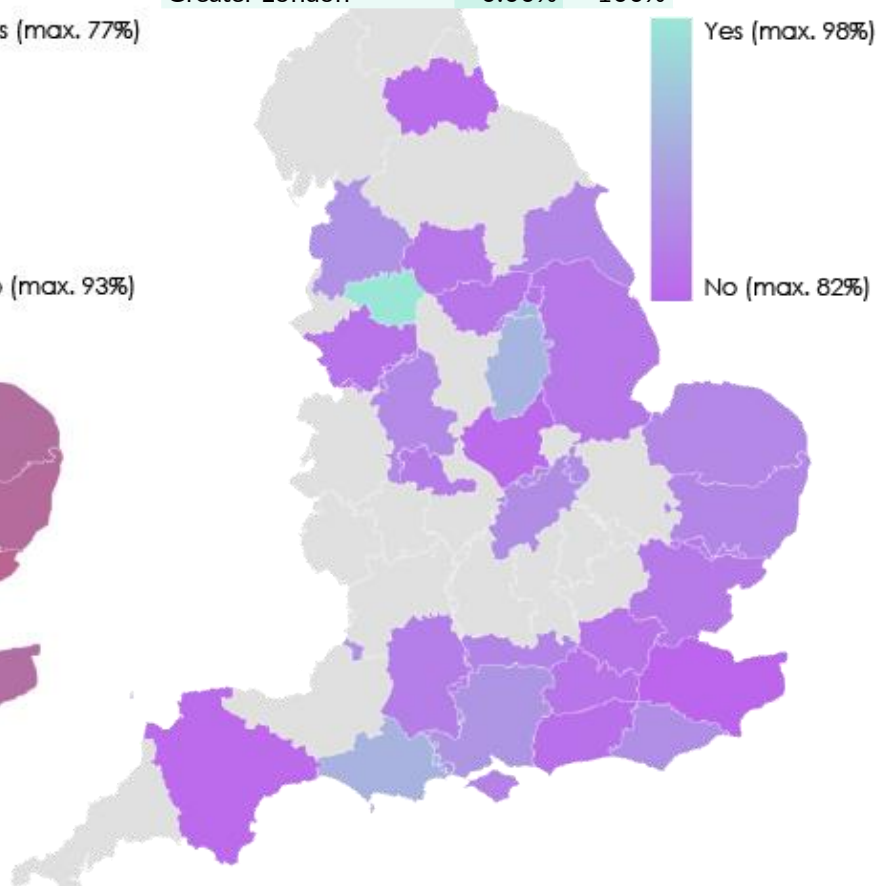
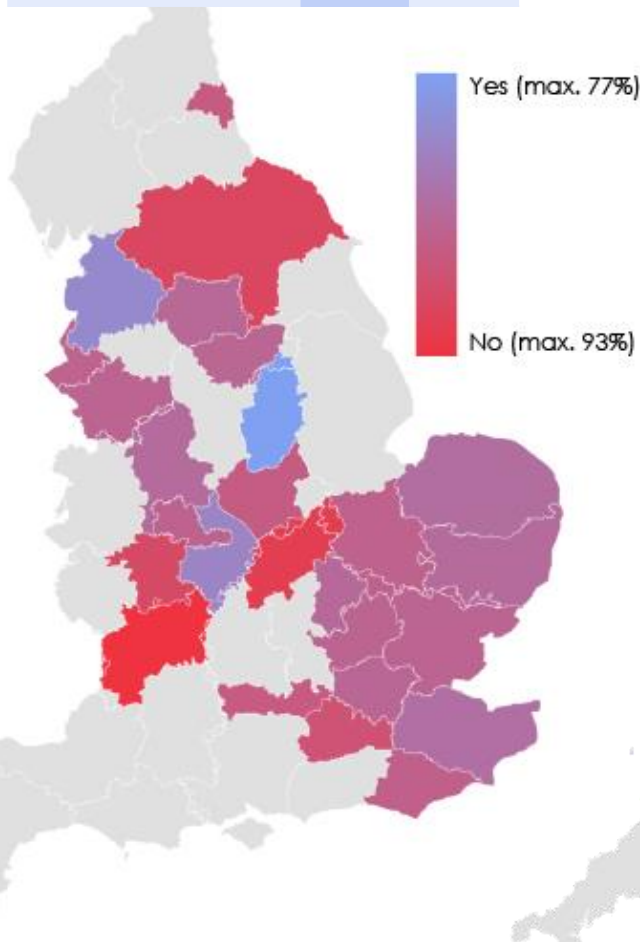


### Primary:

County	Yes	No
Nottinghamshire	76.92%	23.08%
Lancashire	62.50%	37.50%
Warwickshire	58.82%	41.18%
Kent	45.95%	54.05%
Norfolk	44.99%	55.01%
Greater London	44.70%	55.30%
Suffolk	43.86%	56.14%
Staffordshire	43.77%	56.23%
Bedfordshire	42.41%	57.59%
West Yorkshire	41.67%	58.33%
South Yorkshire	40.38%	59.62%
Cheshire	39.59%	60.41%
Essex	39.25%	60.75%
Hertfordshire	38.98%	61.02%
Merseyside	38.36%	61.64%
West Midlands	38.18%	61.82%
Cambridgeshire	37.61%	62.39%
London	36.90%	63.10%
East Sussex	36.36%	63.64%
Leicestershire	33.79%	66.21%
Tyne & Wear	33.33%	66.67%
Berkshire	32.64%	67.36%
Surrey	27.53%	72.47%
Worcestershire	22.37%	77.63%
Cleveland	20.00%	80.00%
Lincolnshire	16.67%	83.33%
Northamptonshire	14.29%	85.71%
Gloucestershire	7.41%	92.59%
Oxfordshire	0.00%	100%
West Sussex	0.00%	100%

### Secondary:

County	Yes	No
Hertfordshire	100%	0.00%
Greater Manchester	97.56%	2.44%
Nottinghamshire	66.67%	33.33%
Dorset	65.52%	34.48%
Hampshire	47.75%	52.25%
Bristol	45.08%	54.92%
Lancashire	44.85%	55.15%
East Sussex	43.19%	56.81%
Northamptonshire	42.07%	57.93%
Staffordshire	40.00%	60.00%
Norfolk	39.02%	60.98%
Suffolk	38.46%	61.54%
East Riding of Yorkshire	38.33%	61.67%
Berkshire	36.84%	63.16%
Isle of Wight	34.89%	65.11%
North Yorkshire	34.55%	65.45%
Wiltshire	33.23%	66.77%
West Midlands	32.19%	67.81%
Essex	30.98%	69.02%
Lincolnshire	29.42%	70.58%
South Yorkshire	29.22%	70.78%
West Yorkshire	28.81%	71.19%
Surrey	27.81%	72.19%
London	27.72%	72.28%
Cheshire	26.47%	73.53%
West Sussex	24.40%	75.60%
Durham	21.99%	78.01%
Devon	21.05%	78.95%
Leicestershire	20.80%	79.20%
Kent	17.88%	82.12%
Worcestershire	16.67%	83.33%
Greater London	0.00%	100%





## Students' Comments: "Is it important to fit in at school?"

"It is important to fit in at a school because then you will **have courage** to do things and **not be afraid or shy.**"

Secondary School, Lancashire

"People **may feel pressure to fit in** at school because if they don't, they **could get bullied or get made fun of** for being different."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"Fitting in at school is **important to a certain extent** because **otherwise you could risk being made fun of.** However, it's important to **express yourself** and be able to have your own identity without just fitting in with the crowd - that's what **makes you your own person.** But we say this, when actually in really life everyone wants to fit in."

Secondary School, Essex

"It's important to have **some same interests** with your friends as long as they **are real interests.**"

Primary School, Hertfordshire

"It **shouldn't be important** to fit in at school but sadly that isn't the reality. Standing out can be a bad thing and **make you an easy target for bullies.**"

Secondary School, West Midlands

"It **develops skills**, like social and teamwork skills. Not fitting in can also be a lot on **mental health** too, so it's just easier."

Secondary School, South Yorkshire

"I think it is important because it can **help you to feel more confident**, but people should know it is **ok to be different as well.**"

Secondary School, Dorset

"I want to fit in because you **don't want to be alone**, but I want to be **different and unique.**"

Primary School, Hertfordshire

"Anyone can **fit in while being their own person.** It's good to fit in, but **not to the point where you're completely changing yourself.** Just be yourself! Don't listen to what anyone else says about you unless it's kind and/or helpful."

Primary School, Norfolk



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.





"We are a special needs school, and we think that everyone should be able to **be their true selves**. We like that at our school, we **can be ourselves** and **not be judged or labelled**."

Secondary School, East Sussex

"It is better to **stand out and be yourself**. Attitudes to fitting in have changed and it's **good to be an individual**. You can still be friends with people who are different to you, it is about **tolerance, acceptance and respect**."

Secondary School, Durham

"I **don't think it's important to fit in**, but you want to be on **good terms with everyone**. Be **friends with the right people** who uplift you and make you feel worthy."

Secondary School, West Sussex

"It's **good to stand out** and show people who you really are. Don't let mean people change your personality. We **must all accept we are different** and **celebrate our uniqueness**. We can learn a lot from each other."

Secondary School, East Sussex

"**Meet your own expectations**, not the expectations of others."

Secondary School, West Sussex

"Being yourself **defines you as a person**. Nobody should make you change, and you **shouldn't change for anyone**."

Primary School, East Sussex

"It's **good to stand out** and show people who you really are. Don't let mean people change your personality. We must all **accept we are different and celebrate our uniqueness**. We can learn a lot from each other."

Primary School, East Sussex

"You don't need to fit in, and it is **good to be different**, but I also understand that lots of kids **want to fit in with their friends**."

Primary School, Hertfordshire

"It isn't very important to fit in because you can **just be you** and it **doesn't matter what other people think**."

Primary School, Hertfordshire



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.



## Students' Comments: "Do labels unite us?"

"I think more yes than no, as we can use labels to find **people that are like us** and we can **make a community** from it but not all labels are nice ones. For example, **people can get teased and bullied** purely because of a label they have been given, and that can be very hard to escape."

College, West Midlands

"The answer is more nuanced than yes or no. **Some labels are empowering**, and some labels are **damaging**. Not all labels have an equal effect."

Secondary 16+, West Midlands

"I feel like we are **sometimes pressured to fit** in order to make friends and this could be due to social media or what the stereotype is. **Many people like labels** as it gives them a feeling of **worthiness**, however, I personally **don't think that labels should define us** as we are all **unique in different ways** which are good as the world would be boring if we were all the same."

Secondary 16+, West Midlands

"Everyone should be at liberty to **express themselves** because **labels limit creativity and also increase bullying**. However, the society we live in is still quite judgemental, so unfortunately a lot of people feel the need to 'fit in'."

Secondary 16+, West Midlands

"I feel a **label should not define who you are**, because it is not a good idea to define someone's differences and **people should not be treated differently** to others."

College, West Midlands

"Everyone has their own style and are unique. A 'label' shouldn't be ceasing a person from doing what they wish. They **don't have to fit in at school** but stand out and **try not to copy what others are doing** but focus on themselves."

Secondary 16+, West Midlands



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.