



Does social media make disabilities more visible?

(Primary, Secondary & College)

27th November – 04th December 2020

Sample of 25,594 voters

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.

Question Primary Key Stage 1 (KS1):

“Do celebrities help us talk about disabilities?”

Question Primary Key Stage 2 (KS2):

“Does social media make it easier to talk about disabilities?”

Question Secondary:

“Does social media make disabilities more visible?”

Question Secondary 16+ & College:

“Does social media make disabilities more visible?”

We put these questions to our voters as part of the **International Day for People with Disabilities 2020**.

Grand Total

Primary KS1:

“Do celebrities help us talk about disabilities?”

Yes 65.15%

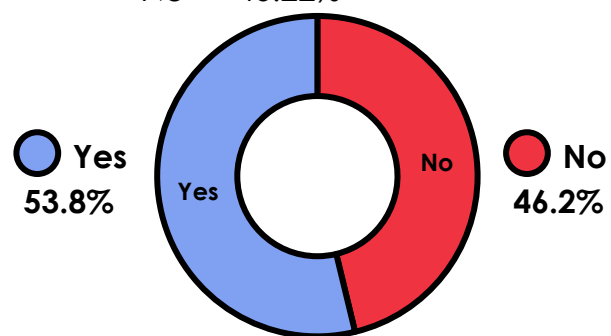
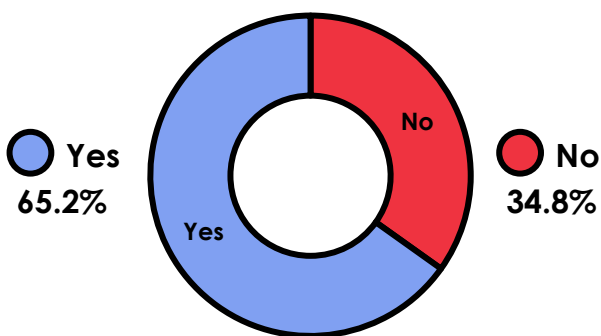
No 34.85%

Primary KS2:

“Does social media make it easier to talk about disabilities?”

Yes 53.78%

No 46.22%



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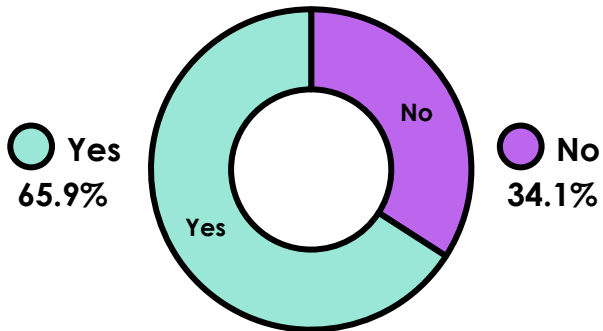


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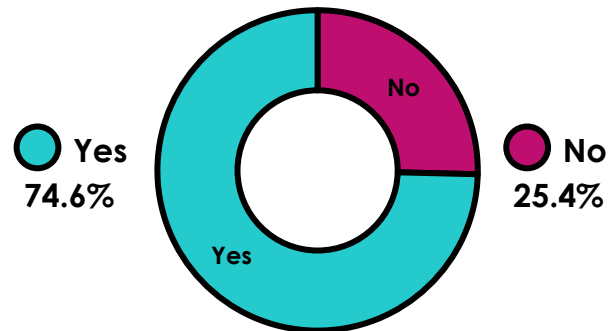
Secondary:
 "Does social media make disabilities more visible?"

Yes 65.91%
 No 34.09%



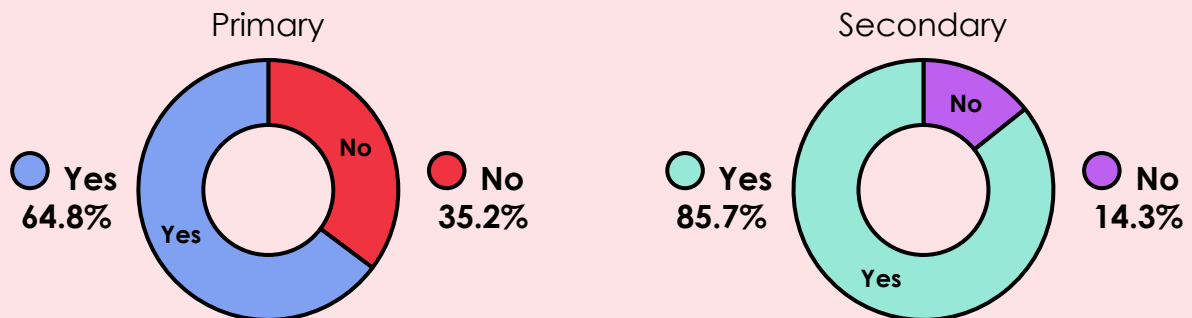
Secondary 16+ & College:
 "Does social media make disabilities more visible?"

Yes 74.62%
 No 25.38%

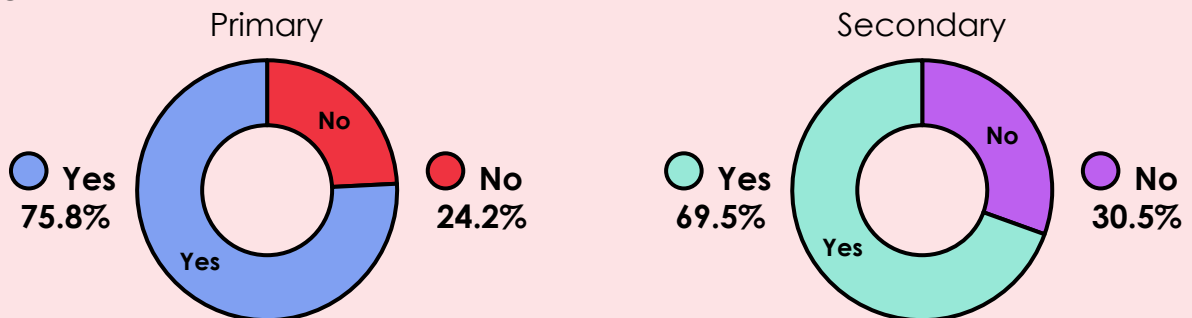


How does this compare to previous VoteTopics?

In **November 2019**, during the week of 29th November – 06th December, we asked **Primary and Secondary voters** "Are disabilities still misunderstood?". This is what they thought in late 2019 when asked this question:



In **November 2018**, during the week of 09th – 16th November, we asked **Primary KS2 and Secondary voters** "Do anonymous apps make bullying worse?". This is what they thought in late 2018 when asked this question:



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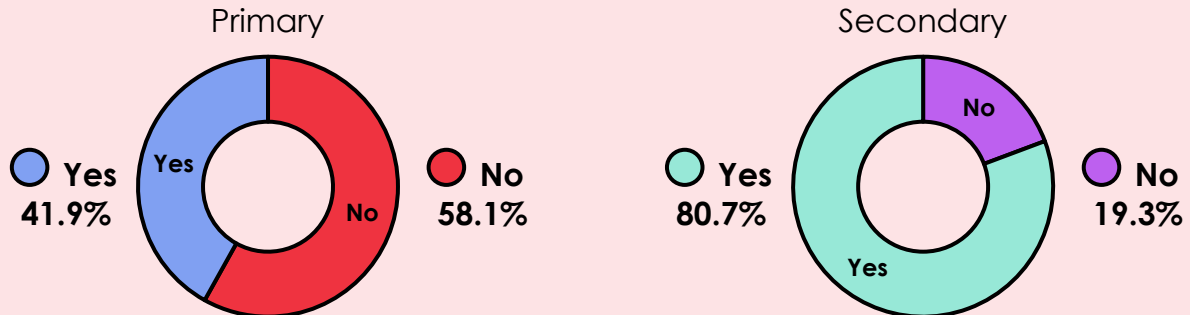
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In **February 2017**, during the week of 29th November – 06th December, **Primary and Secondary voters were asked “Do we treat strangers differently online than in real life?”**. This is what they thought in early 2017 when asked this question:



Gender

Primary KS1: “Do celebrities help us talk about disabilities?”

	Yes	No
Female	66.91%	33.09%
Male	68.08%	31.92%
Diverse*	39.45%	60.55%

Primary KS2: “Does social media make it easier to talk about disabilities?”

	Yes	No
Female	52.67%	47.33%
Male	55.20%	44.80%
Diverse*	55.81%	44.19%

Secondary: “Does social media make disabilities more visible?”

	Yes	No
Female	66.24%	33.76%
Male	65.64%	34.36%
Diverse*	65.26%	34.74%

Secondary 16+ & College: “Does social media make disabilities more visible?”

	Yes %	No %
Female	82.82%	17.18%
Male	74.54%	25.46%
Diverse*	66.94%	33.06%

*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.



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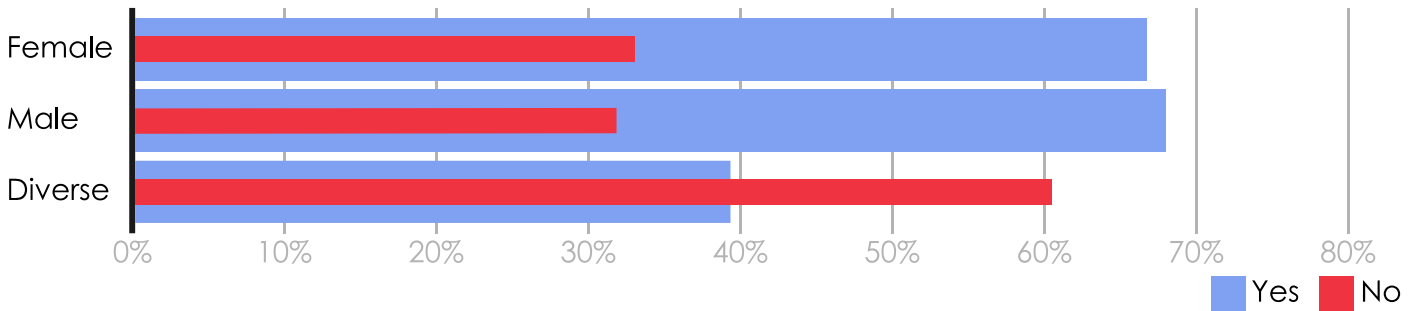
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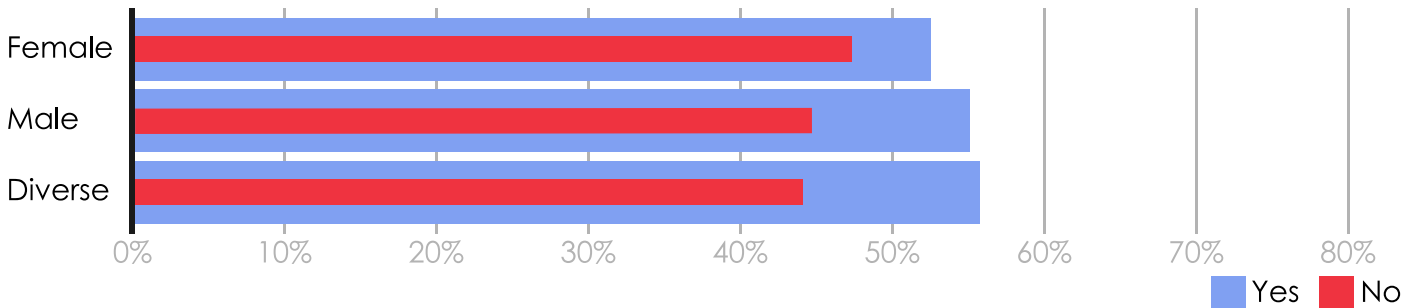
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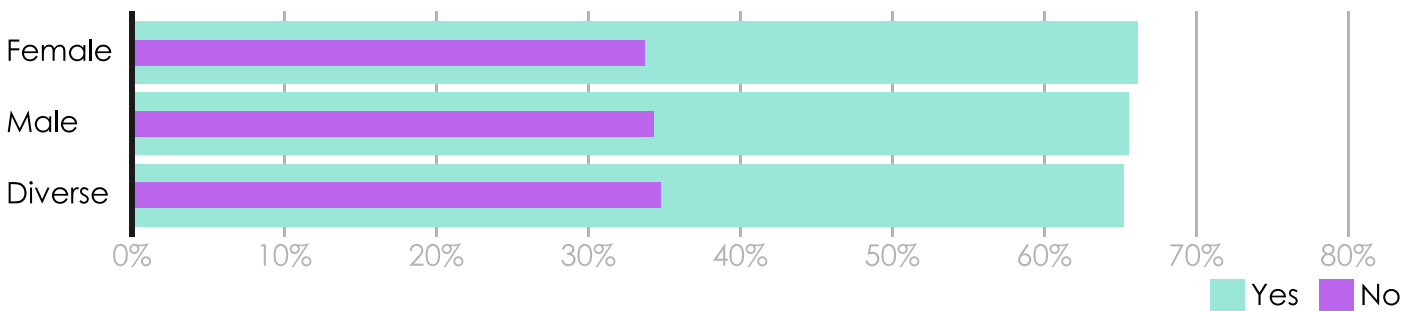
Primary KS1: "Do celebrities help us talk about disabilities?"



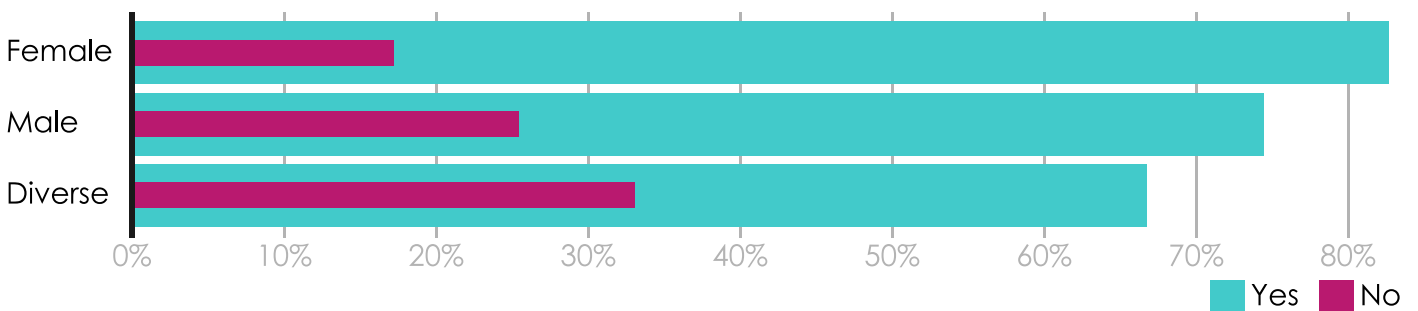
Primary KS2: "Does social media make it easier to talk about disabilities?"



Secondary: "Does social media make disabilities more visible?"



Secondary 16+ & College: "Does social media make disabilities more visible?"



Across Primary (KS1 and KS2) and Secondary, the difference between female, male and diverse voters was only marginal. In **Secondary schools** the **difference between female voters** (who represented the biggest portion of Yes votes) **and male voters was only 0.6%**. In **Primary KS2** the **difference between female pupils and male pupils** that voted Yes was **2.5%** (with female pupils having the smallest representation overall). One **outstanding anomaly** to this overall close voting outcome were **diverse students in Primary KS1** where the **portion of pupils who votes No was significantly higher** than those who voted Yes.



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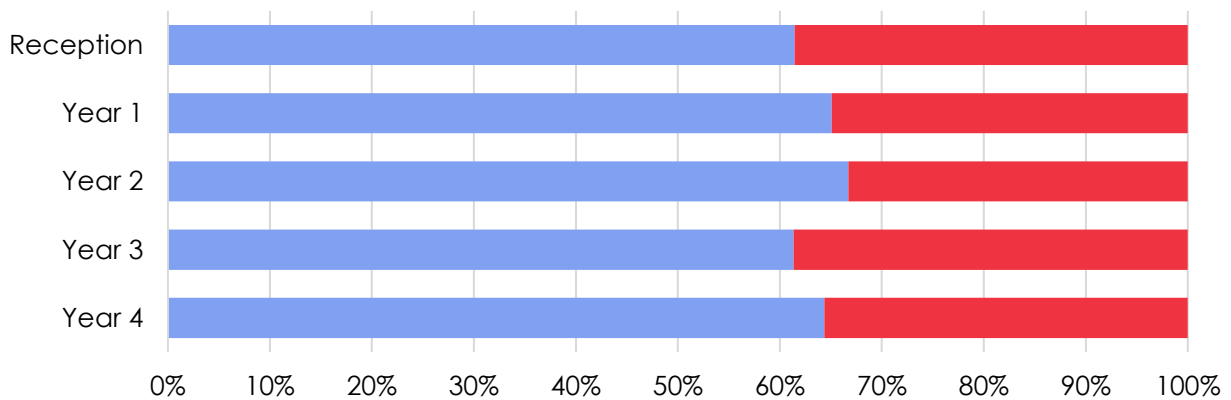


Among **Secondary 16+ and College** voters the difference was more significant than it was among younger voters. **Female students represented the biggest percentage of Yes** votes with 82.8%. This was followed by male students with **8.3% fewer male voters** and **diverse students with 15.9% fewer** voting Yes compared to female students.

Age

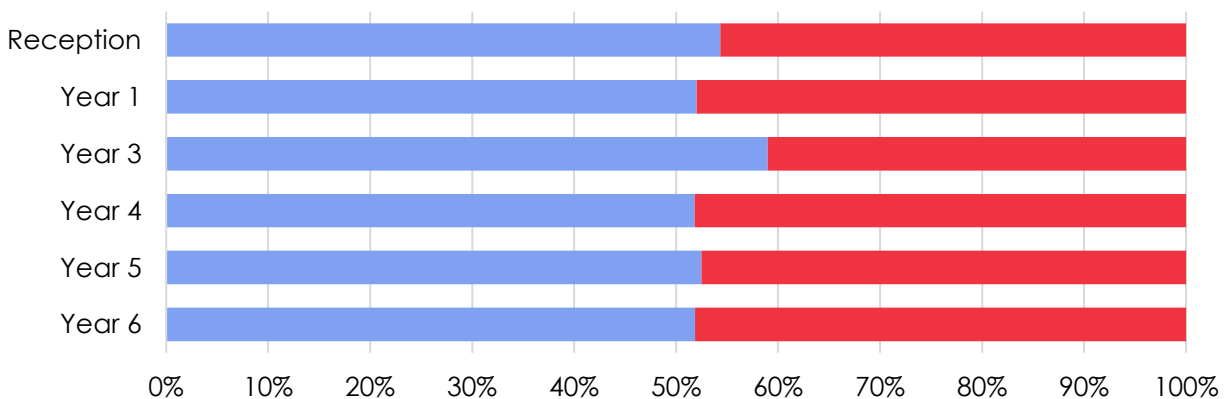
Primary KS1: "Do celebrities help us talk about disabilities?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Reception	61.46%	38.54%
Year 1	65.09%	34.91%
Year 2	66.71%	33.29%
Year 3	61.36%	38.64%
Year 4	64.38%	35.63%



Primary KS2: "Does social media make it easier to talk about disabilities?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Reception	54.33%	45.67%
Year 1	52.00%	48.00%
Year 3	58.99%	41.01%
Year 4	51.82%	48.18%
Year 5	52.47%	47.53%
Year 6	51.86%	48.14%



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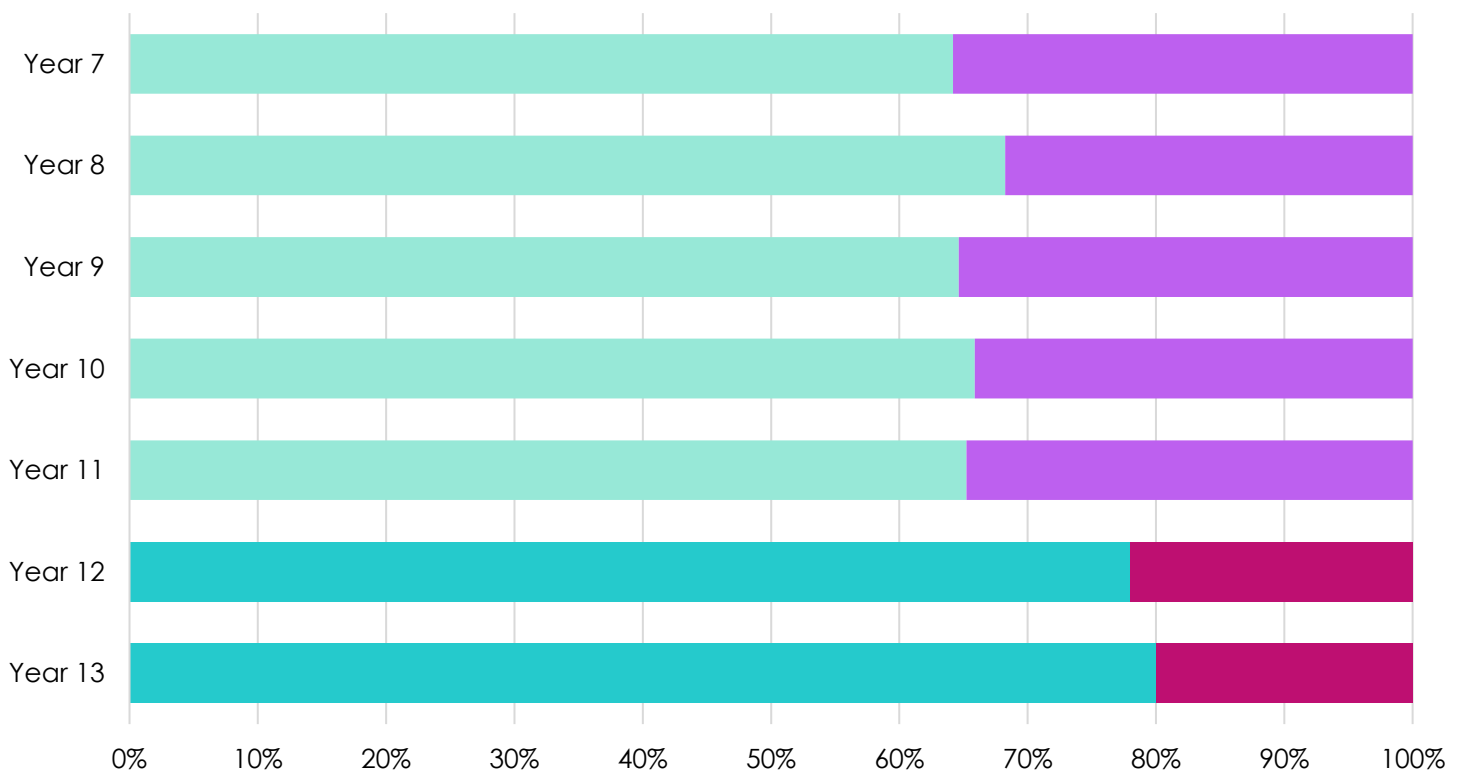


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Secondary, Secondary 16+ & College:
"Does social media make disabilities more visible?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 7	64%	35.70%
Year 8	68.24%	31.76%
Year 9	64.63%	35.37%
Year 10	65.88%	34.12%
Year 11	65.23%	34.77%
Year 12	77.98%	22.02%
Year 13	80.00%	20.00%
Vertical Tutor Group	100.00%	0.00%



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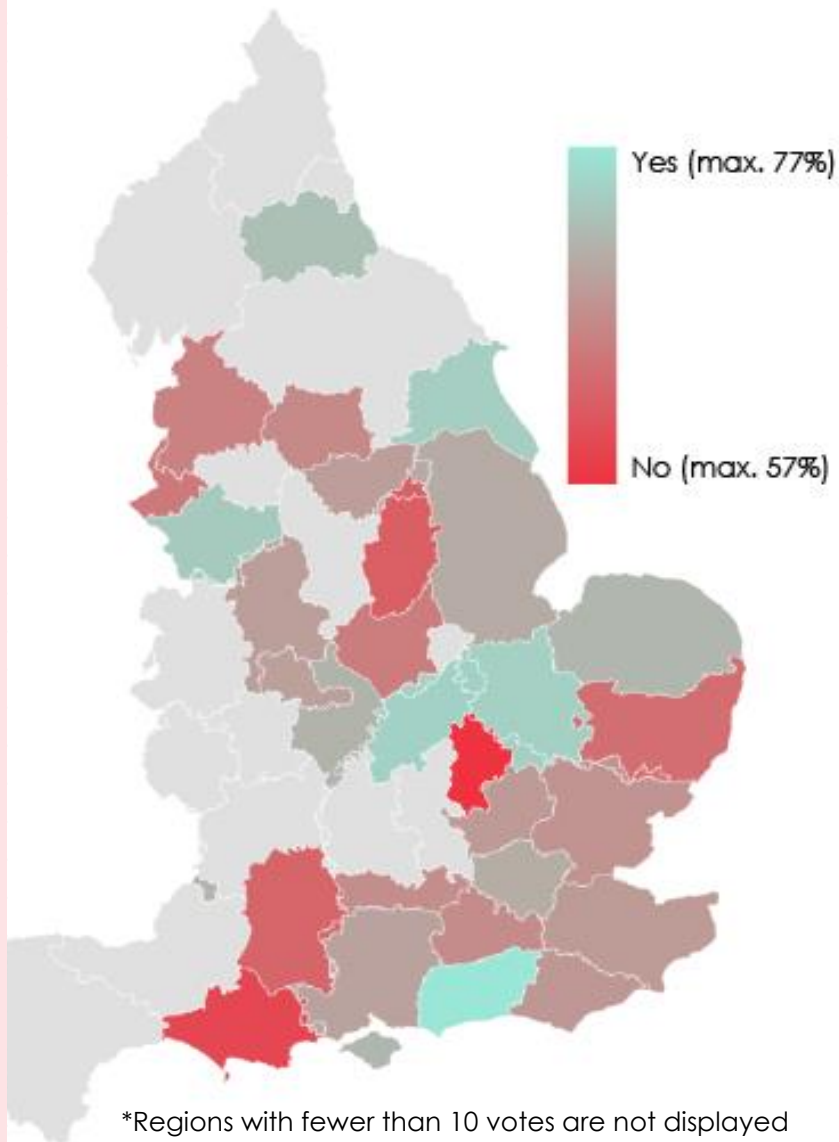
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Location

Primary, Secondary & College:

	Yes	No
Cleveland	100%	0.00%
Greater Manchester	100%	0.00%
Somerset	100%	0.00%
Worcestershire	100%	0.00%
Wrexham	83.33%	16.67%
Devon	80.00%	20.00%
West Sussex	77.03%	22.97%
Northamptonshire	72.94%	27.06%
Cambridgeshire	72.73%	27.27%
East Riding of Yorkshire	72.30%	27.70%
Cheshire	71.67%	28.33%
Durham	69.76%	30.24%
Isle of Wight	68.12%	31.88%
Norfolk	68.07%	31.93%
Bristol	67.88%	32.12%
Warwickshire	67.38%	32.62%
London	66.67%	33.33%
Lincolnshire	65.94%	34.06%
Hampshire	64.26%	35.74%
West Midlands	63.66%	36.34%
Staffordshire	63.46%	36.54%
South Yorkshire	63.29%	36.71%
Kent	62.98%	37.02%
Hertfordshire	62.75%	37.25%
Greater London	62.58%	37.42%
North Yorkshire	62.55%	37.45%
East Sussex	62.26%	37.74%
Essex	61.43%	38.57%
Berkshire	60.40%	39.60%
Surrey	60.17%	39.83%
West Yorkshire	59.65%	40.35%
Lancashire	58.15%	41.85%
Leicestershire	57.27%	42.73%
Merseyside	56.47%	43.53%
Suffolk	54.43%	45.57%
Wiltshire	52.85%	47.15%
Nottinghamshire	51.61%	48.39%
Dorset	47.22%	52.78%
Bedfordshire	43.26%	56.74%
Cardiff	0.00%	100%



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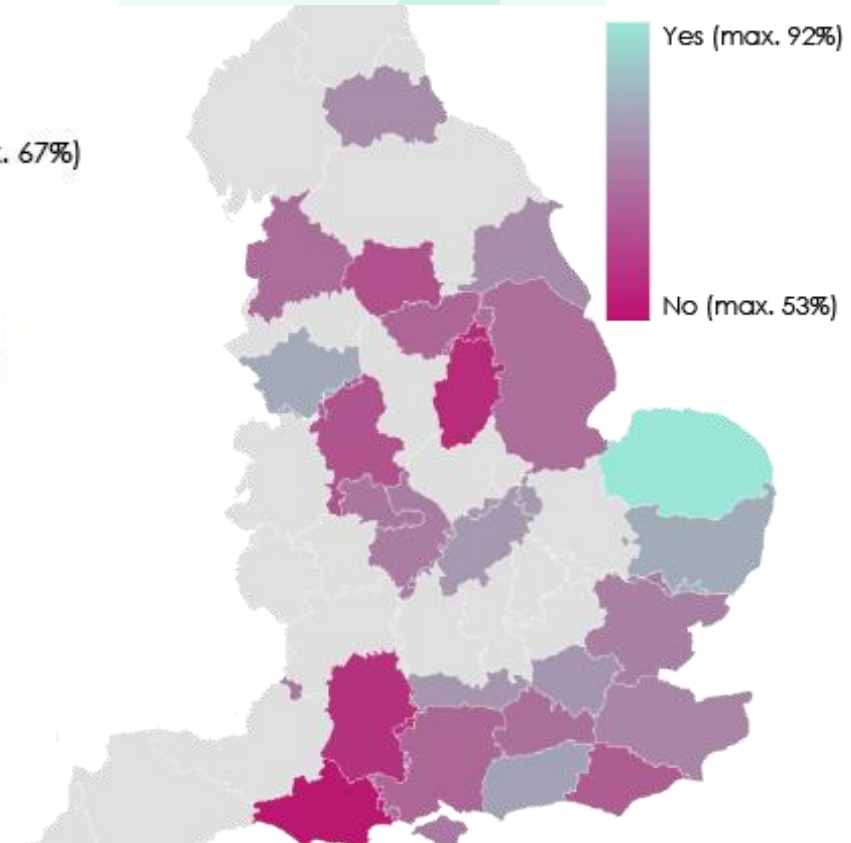
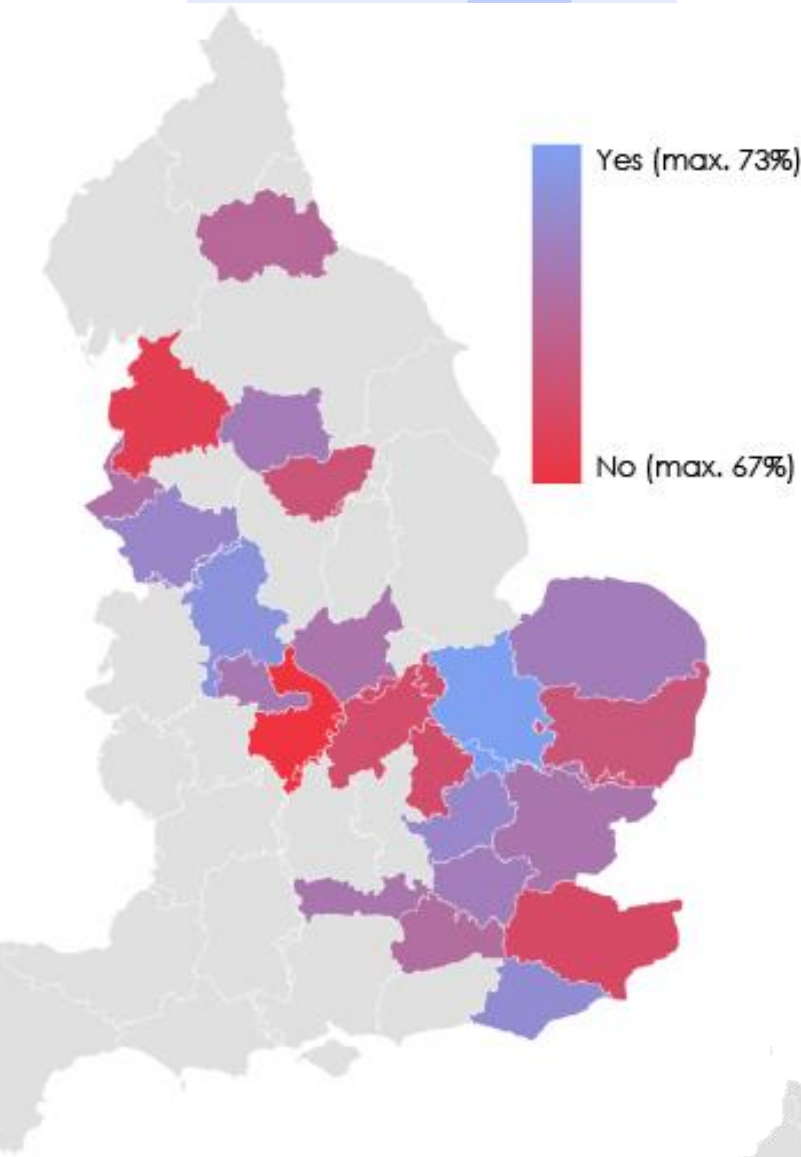


Primary KS1 & KS2:

	Yes	No
Somerset	100%	0.00%
Cambridgeshire	72.73%	27.27%
Staffordshire	67.95%	32.05%
East Sussex	65.63%	34.38%
Hertfordshire	64.00%	36.00%
Cheshire	63.41%	36.59%
Greater London	62.74%	37.26%
Norfolk	60.24%	39.76%
London	59.72%	40.28%
West Yorkshire	59.59%	40.41%
West Midlands	58.50%	41.50%
Berkshire	57.68%	42.32%
Essex	57.47%	42.53%
Leicestershire	57.27%	42.73%
Merseyside	56.47%	43.53%
Surrey	54.69%	45.31%
Durham	53.33%	46.67%
Suffolk	46.67%	53.33%
South Yorkshire	46.15%	53.85%
Northamptonshire	43.33%	56.67%
Bedfordshire	43.26%	56.74%
Kent	41.82%	58.18%
Lancashire	37.50%	62.50%
Warwickshire	33.33%	66.67%
Wrexham	0.00%	100%

Secondary & College:

	Yes	No
Cleveland	100%	0.00%
Greater Manchester	100%	0.00%
Worcestershire	100%	0.00%
Wrexham	100%	0.00%
Norfolk	91.57%	8.43%
Devon	80.00%	20.00%
Suffolk	78.95%	21.05%
Cheshire	78.75%	21.25%
West Sussex	77.03%	22.97%
Northamptonshire	74.79%	25.21%
Berkshire	74.29%	25.71%
London	74.14%	25.86%
Durham	72.57%	27.43%
East Riding of Yorkshire	72.30%	27.70%
Kent	70.59%	29.41%
Essex	69.55%	30.45%
Warwickshire	68.89%	31.11%
Isle of Wight	68.12%	31.88%
Bristol	67.88%	32.12%
West Midlands	67.43%	32.57%
Surrey	66.06%	33.94%
Lincolnshire	65.94%	34.06%
Lancashire	65.44%	34.56%
South Yorkshire	64.32%	35.68%
Hampshire	64.26%	35.74%
North Yorkshire	62.55%	37.45%
East Sussex	62.10%	37.90%
Staffordshire	60.10%	39.90%
West Yorkshire	59.67%	40.33%
Greater London	58.33%	41.67%
Wiltshire	52.85%	47.15%
Nottinghamshire	51.61%	48.39%
Dorset	47.22%	52.78%
Cardiff	0.00%	100%
Hertfordshire	0.00%	100%





Students' Comments Primary KS2:

"Does social media make it easier to talk about disabilities?"

"It must be difficult for people with disabilities to share their stories online, but it helps **to raise awareness amongst their followers.**"

Primary School, West Midlands

"You **should be able to share your experiences** of your disability on social media as you can **provide help and support** to others."

Primary School, East Sussex

"If someone has a disability, **seeing someone else** that also has the same **will make me feel better** about myself."

Primary School, Kent

"Social media **helps people with disabilities to reach out** and find other people who also live with a disability, maybe even the same disability as them and can **hear about their experiences and get advice** from someone who truly understands. This makes them feel as though they are not alone. If their disability has been something they have been ashamed or embarrassed about then looking online and seeing other people post and be brave about it **may make them feel better about themselves as well.**"

Primary School, Kent

"Social media can be positive, but it **may lead to people saying negative things**, making you not want to share again."

Primary School, Leicestershire

"Unfortunately, sometimes **people's comments are offensive and unnecessarily rude** which is unacceptable and can **put people off** from using the internet to share their disability."

Primary School, East Sussex

"Social media doesn't help people talk about disabilities because there will always be **the fear that people will bully them because of it.**"

Primary School, South Yorkshire

"I think **the trolls might make people sad** and too scared to say anything online about their disability."

Primary School, London



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Students' Comments Secondary:
"Does social media make disabilities more visible?"

"If people share their disabilities online then it allows others who may have disabilities to **realise, they are not alone** and may encourage them to **feel more confident.**"

Secondary School, West Midlands

"There are more and more people **speaking out about disabilities**, which makes them more visible."

Secondary School, Lancashire

"I see lots of people [online] showing their disabilities. **Not just physical ones** but also mental and neurological. This has **opened my eyes** and shown me how they managed through difficult times."

Secondary School, South Yorkshire

"Some people on social media have **accounts dedicated to spreading awareness** about physical and mental disabilities."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"People with disabilities on social media **can edit parts** or **they can just not talk about it** and people online won't even know."

Secondary School, Lancashire

"Disabilities are not that visible for **fear that social media has more bullies** than in real life. People still **don't open up about disabilities.**"

Secondary School, North Yorkshire

"With social media, you can only **see what others want you to see**. Being able to only show part of you or only photos of you isn't showing your full self. Any **mental illness or disability may not even be visible in person never mind on social media.**"

Secondary School, West Midlands

"If anything, **it makes them less visible**. People with disabilities that you can see **can choose not to show them** and you **would only know if someone had a hidden disability if they told you**. Social media makes it very easy for people **to pick and choose what they show** people including disabilities."

Secondary School, West Midlands



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