



Should there be an Instagram for under-13s?

23rd – 30th April 2021

Sample of 26,903 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.

Please Note: The sample size featured reflects the number of pupils and students that cast their vote on this topic during the week in which this vote was held. This sample size does therefore not reflect the number of pupils and students who discussed this VoteTopic but did not get a chance to participate in the voting.

VoteTopic Overview:

Question Primary:

“Should under-13s have Instagram?”

Question Secondary:

“Should there be an Instagram for under-13s?”

Question Secondary 16+ & College:

“Should children get onto social media?”

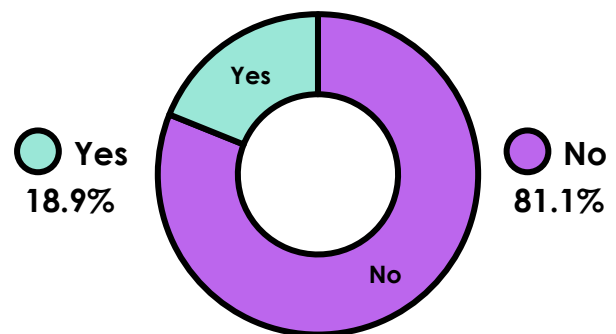
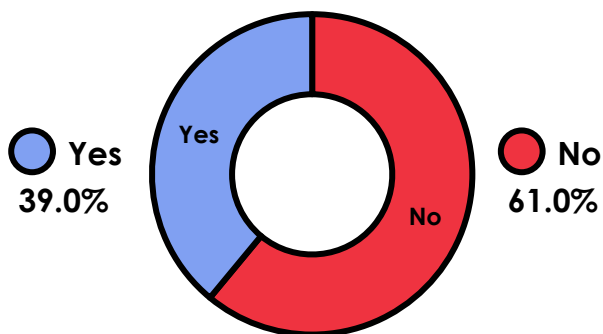
Grand Total

Primary: “Should under-13s have Instagram?”

Yes 38.99%
No 61.01%

Secondary: “Should there be an Instagram for under-13s?”

Yes 18.91%
No 81.09%



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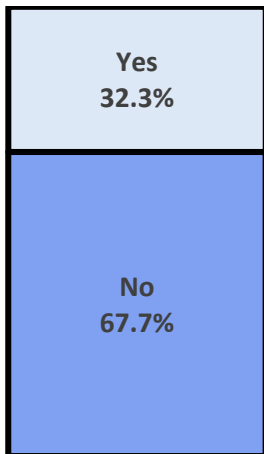
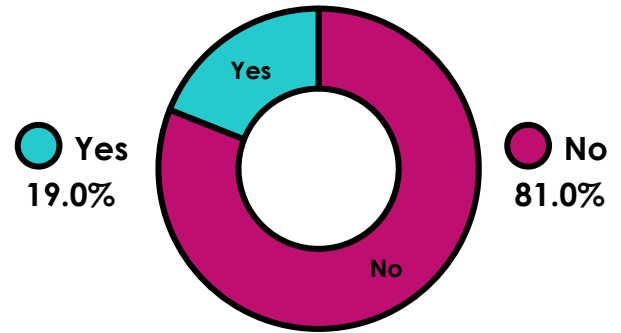


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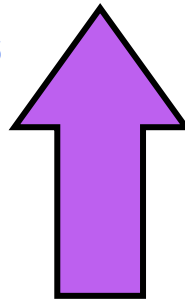
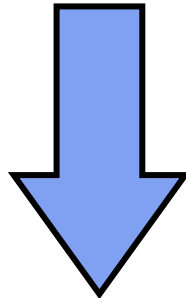


Secondary 16+ & College: "Should children get onto social media?"

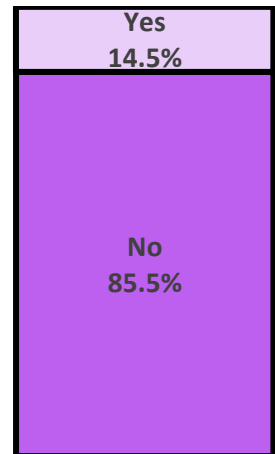
Yes 19.00%
No 81.00%



Under-13s

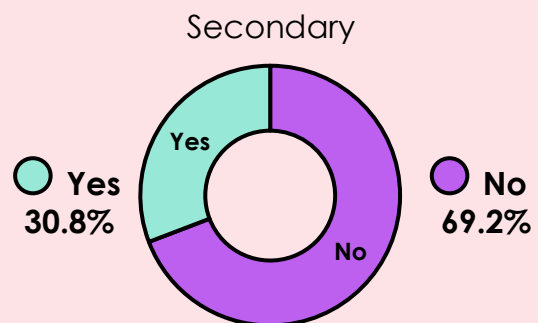
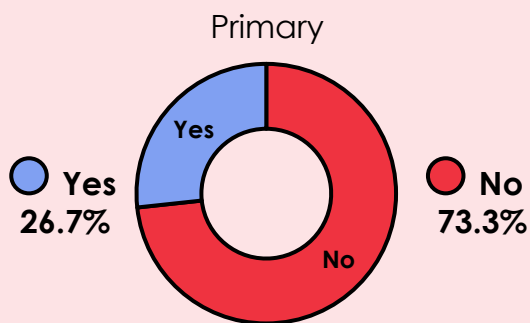


Over-13s



How does this compare to previous VoteTopics?

In May 2019, during the week of 17th – 24th May, we asked **Primary** and **Secondary** students "Do social media companies listen enough to young people?". This were the results from 2019:



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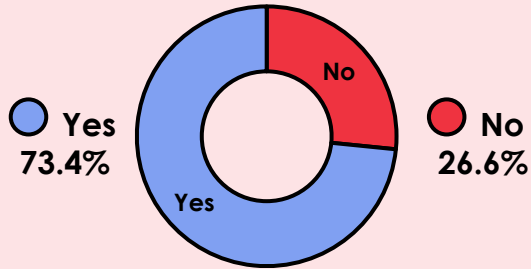


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Earlier this year, during the week of 26th Feb – 05th Mar 2021, we asked **our voters** “**Has lockdown made the internet/online platforms more dangerous?**”. This were the results in early 2020:

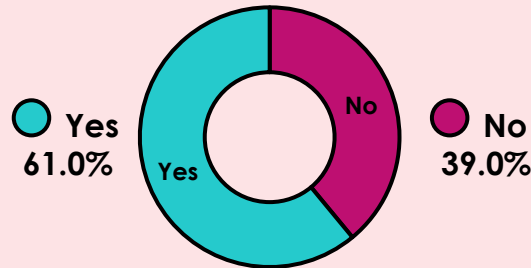
Primary: “Has lockdown made the internet more dangerous?”



Secondary: “Has lockdown made online platforms more dangerous?”



College: “Has lockdown made online platforms more dangerous?”



Gender

Primary: “Should under-13s have Instagram?”

	Yes	No
Female	36.70%	63.30%
Male	42.16%	57.84%
Diverse*	25.16%	74.84%

Secondary: “Should there be an Instagram for under-13s?”

	Yes	No
Female	18.84%	81.16%
Male	18.85%	81.15%
Diverse*	19.94%	80.06%

16+ & College: “Should children get onto social media?”

	Yes	No
Female	11.02%	88.98%
Male	27.60%	72.40%
Diverse*	22.17%	77.83%

*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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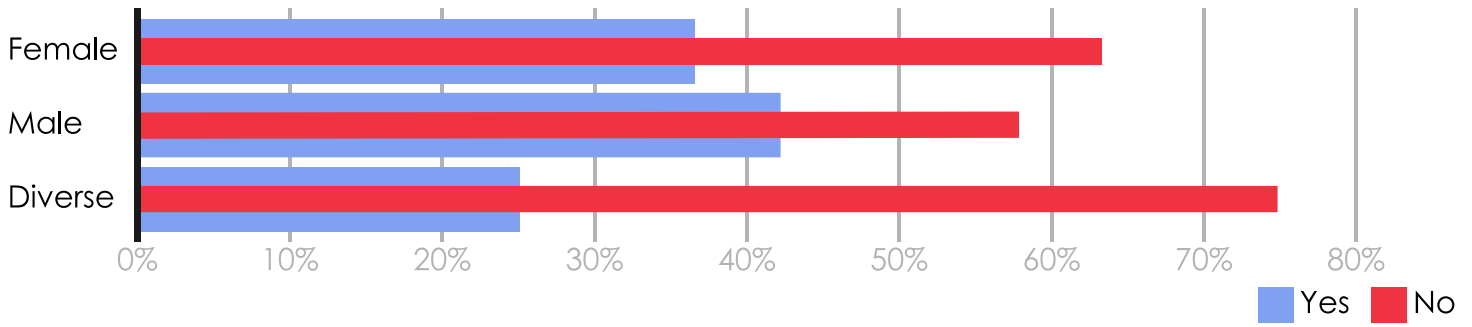
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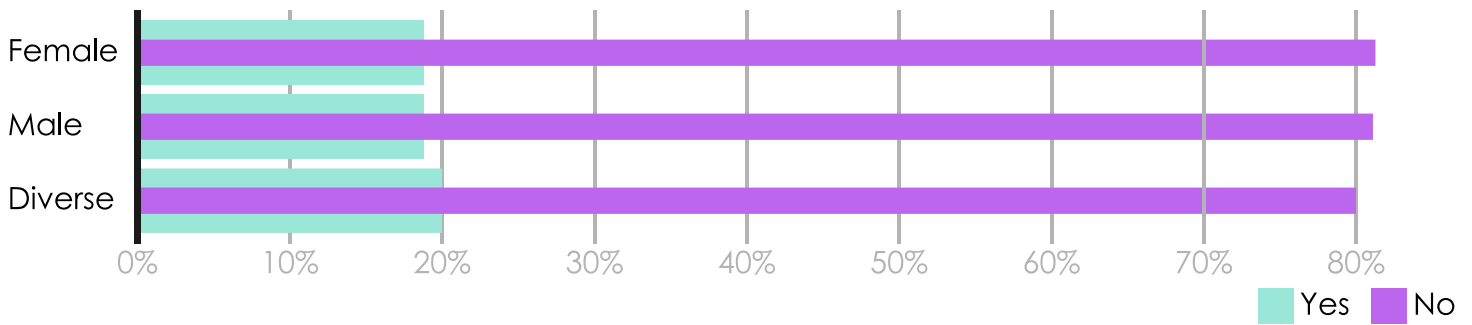
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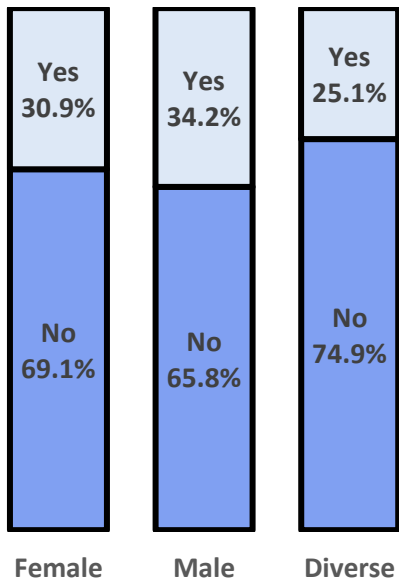
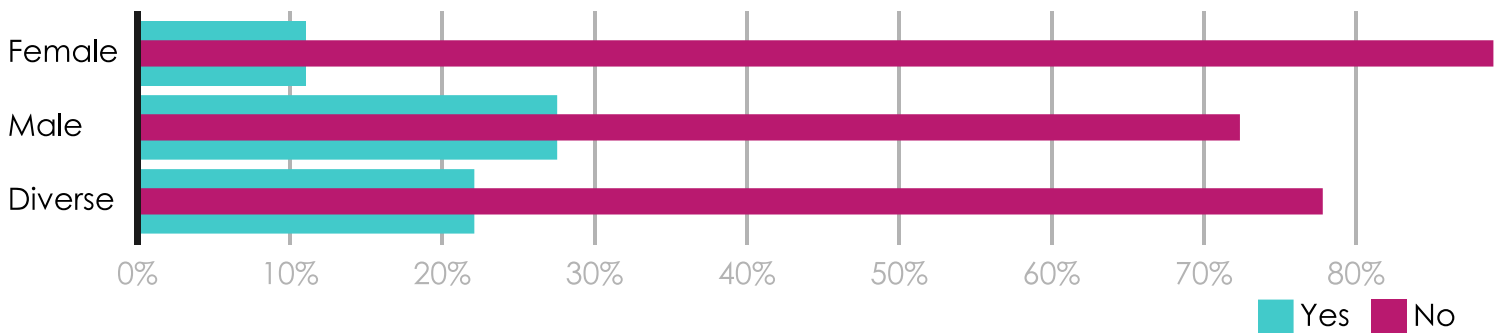
Primary: "Should under-13s have Instagram?"



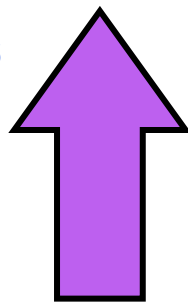
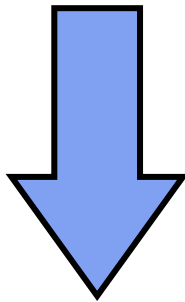
Secondary: "Should there be an Instagram for under-13s?"



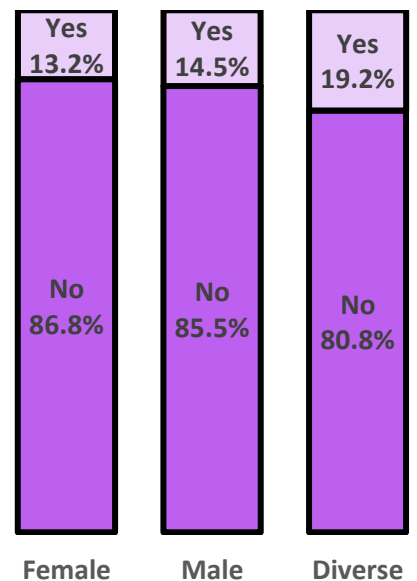
Secondary 16+ & College: "Should children get onto social media?"



Under-13s



Over-13s



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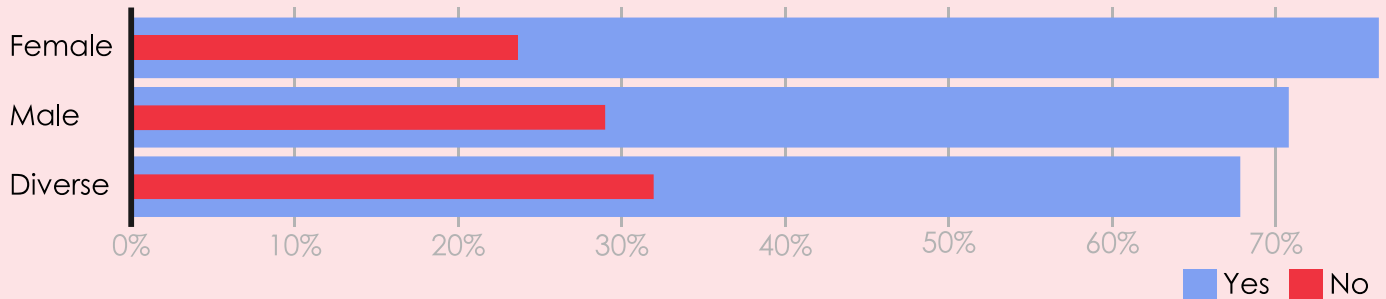
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How does this compare to previous VoteTopics?

26th February – 05th March 2021

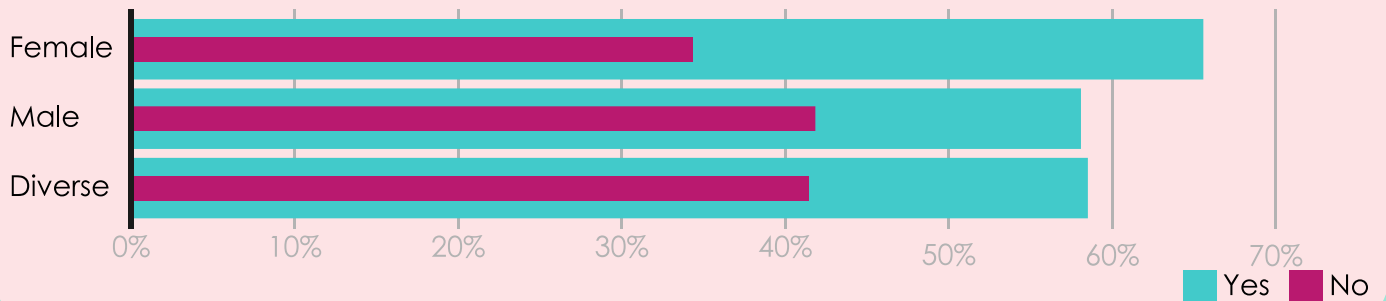
Primary: "Has lockdown made the internet more dangerous?"



Secondary: "Has lockdown made online platforms more dangerous?"



Secondary 16+ & College: "Has lockdown made online platforms more dangerous?"



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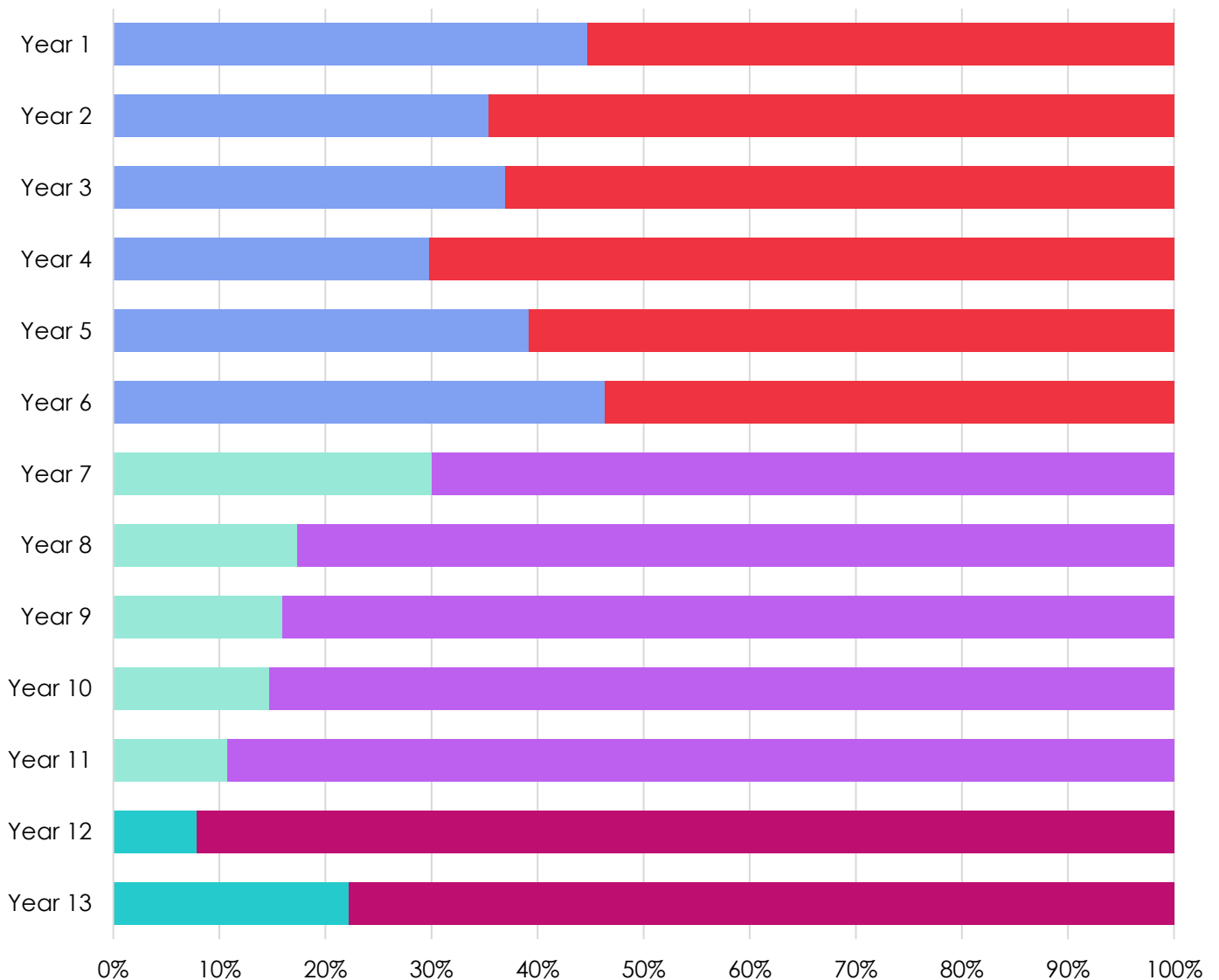


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Age

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 1	44.72%	55.28%
Year 2	35.38%	64.62%
Year 3	36.93%	63.07%
Year 4	29.78%	70.22%
Year 5	39.19%	60.81%
Year 6	46.33%	53.67%
Year 7	30.02%	69.98%
Year 8	17.34%	82.66%
Year 9	15.92%	84.08%
Year 10	14.67%	85.33%
Year 11	10.71%	89.29%
Year 12	7.89%	92.11%
Year 13	22.16%	77.84%
Vertical Tutor Group	8.33%	91.67%



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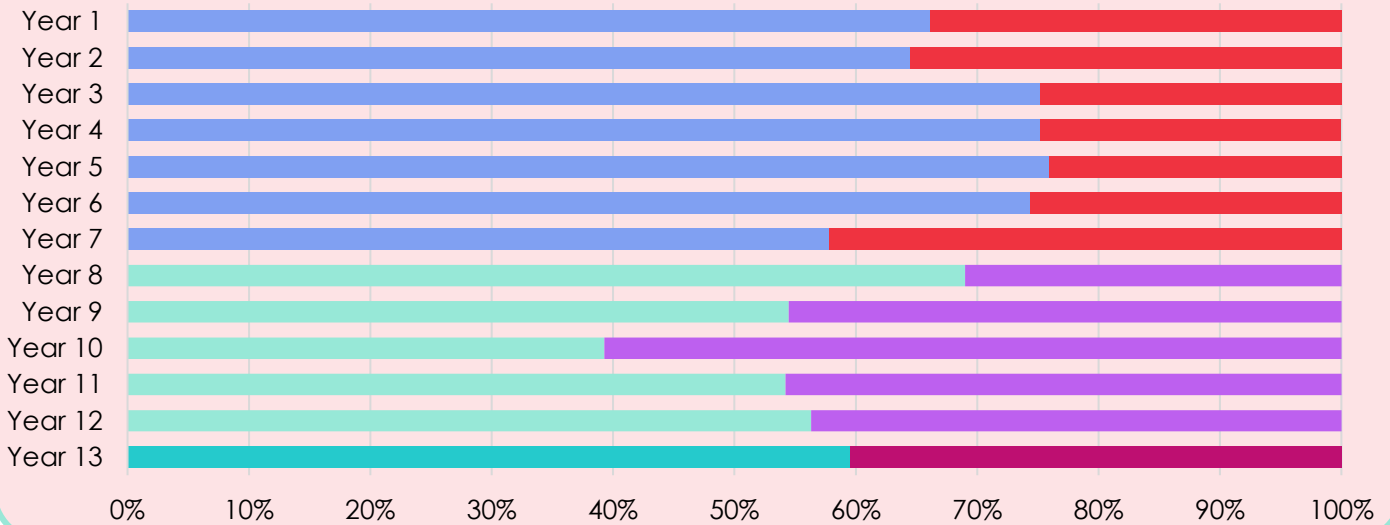
Be heard.



How does this compare to previous VoteTopics?

26th February – 05th March 2021

“Has lockdown made the internet/online platforms more dangerous?”



Location

Primary: “Should under-13s have Instagram?”

	Yes	No
Bedfordshire	71.11%	28.89%
Lancashire	55.26%	44.74%
East Sussex	52.00%	48.00%
Northamptonshire	50.00%	50.00%
Nottinghamshire	47.89%	52.11%
Warwickshire	46.15%	53.85%
South Yorkshire	46.07%	53.93%
Gloucestershire	45.45%	54.55%
Essex	44.59%	55.41%
Staffordshire	42.29%	57.71%
West Midlands	41.98%	58.02%
Cheshire	41.79%	58.21%
Greater London	41.69%	58.31%
Lincolnshire	39.58%	60.42%
Merseyside	39.22%	60.78%
Cambridgeshire	36.67%	63.33%
Surrey	36.34%	63.66%
Kent	35.98%	64.02%
West Yorkshire	35.79%	64.21%
Leicestershire	34.89%	65.11%
Norfolk	34.63%	65.37%
Berkshire	34.60%	65.40%
London	29.69%	70.31%
Suffolk	15.52%	84.48%
Hertfordshire	15.22%	84.78%

Secondary: “Should there be an Instagram for under-13s?”

	Yes	No
Worcestershire*	100%	0.00%
Dorset	60.00%	40.00%
Devon*	50.00%	50.00%
Isle of Wight	43.97%	56.03%
Cambridgeshire	37.56%	62.44%
Kent	35.71%	64.29%
Nottinghamshire	35.42%	64.58%
East Riding of Yorkshire	23.50%	76.50%
Berkshire	22.86%	77.14%
North Yorkshire	22.36%	77.64%
Lancashire	22.07%	77.93%
Cheshire	21.92%	78.08%
West Yorkshire	21.77%	78.23%
London	20.22%	79.78%
Suffolk	20.00%	80.00%
West Midlands	19.67%	80.33%
Bristol	18.77%	81.23%
East Sussex	18.17%	81.83%
Wiltshire	18.04%	81.96%
Northamptonshire	17.82%	82.18%
Surrey	17.34%	82.66%
Durham	16.93%	83.07%
South Yorkshire	15.66%	84.34%
Essex	14.57%	85.43%
Greater Manchester	14.49%	85.51%
Lincolnshire	14.00%	86.00%
Hampshire	12.63%	87.37%
Leicestershire	9.58%	90.42%
Staffordshire	7.04%	92.96%
Norfolk	6.35%	93.65%
Hertfordshire*	0.00%	100%



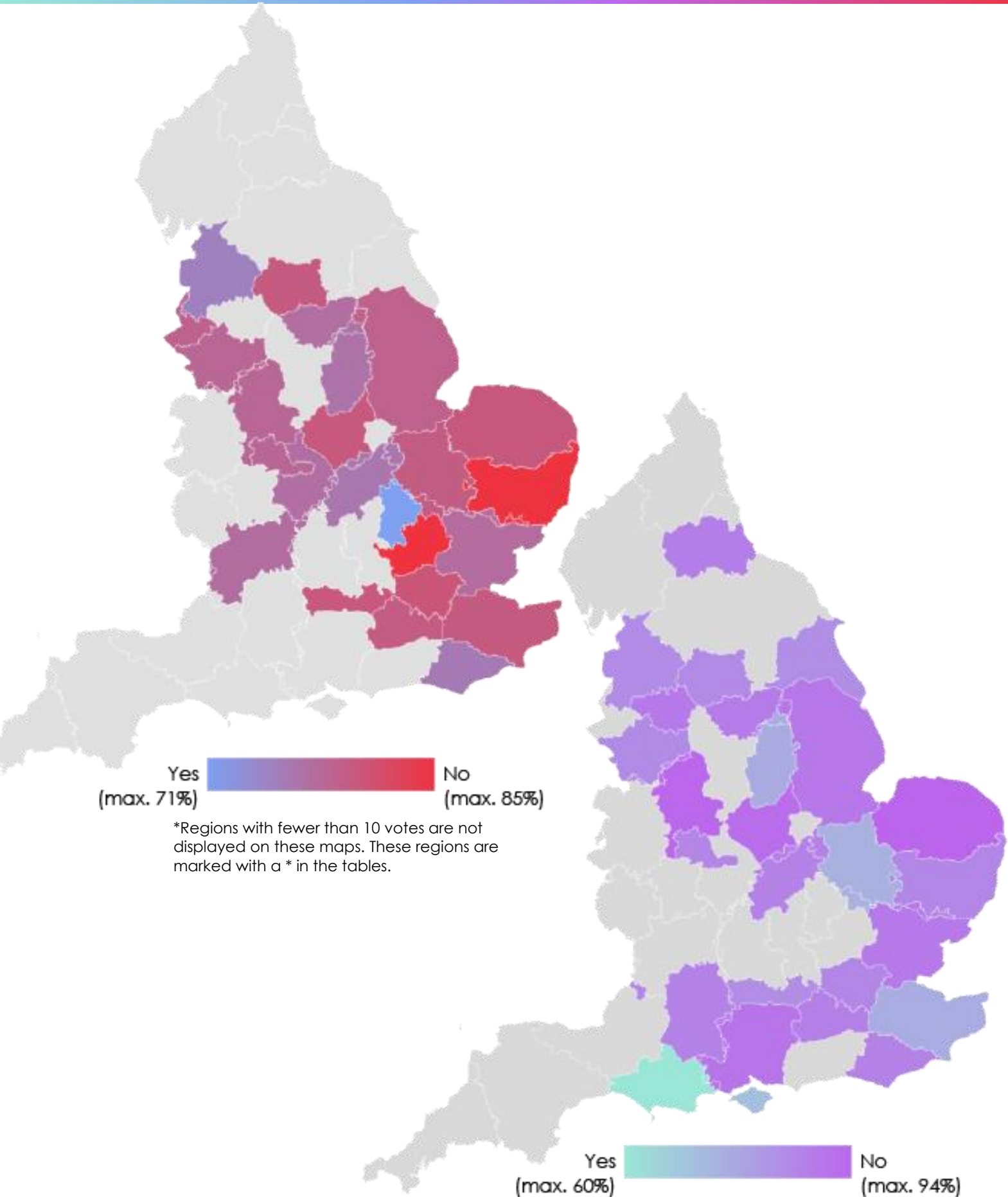
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*Regions with fewer than 10 votes are not displayed on these maps. These regions are marked with a * in the tables.



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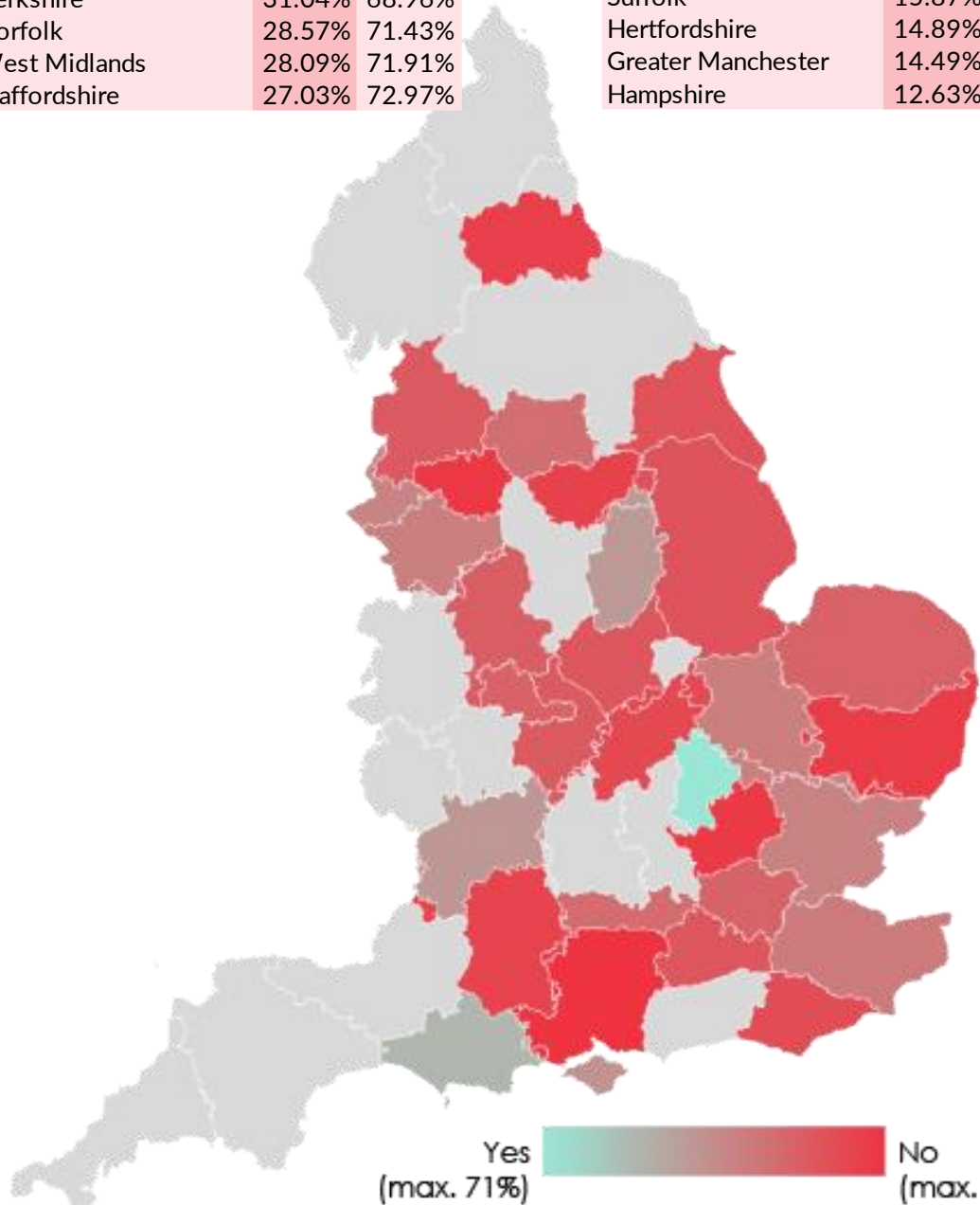
Demtech Ltd T/A: VotesforSchools
CRN 09940208, registered in England and Wales
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Office Address: Unit LMLF 2.4, The Leather Market,
Weston Street, London Bridge, SE1 3ER



Total – Primary, Secondary, 16+ & College:

	Yes	No
Bedfordshire	71.11%	28.89%
Dorset	55.56%	44.44%
Worcestershire*	50.00%	50.00%
Devon*	50.00%	50.00%
Nottinghamshire	46.03%	53.97%
Gloucestershire	45.45%	54.55%
Isle of Wight	43.97%	56.03%
Greater London	41.69%	58.31%
Merseyside	39.22%	60.78%
Essex	38.60%	61.40%
Cheshire	37.54%	62.46%
Cambridgeshire	37.52%	62.48%
Kent	35.96%	64.04%
West Yorkshire	32.28%	67.72%
Berkshire	31.04%	68.96%
Norfolk	28.57%	71.43%
West Midlands	28.09%	71.91%
Staffordshire	27.03%	72.97%

	Yes	No
Lancashire	25.70%	74.30%
Warwickshire	25.60%	74.40%
London	25.51%	74.49%
Leicestershire	24.44%	75.56%
Surrey	24.28%	75.72%
Lincolnshire	23.49%	76.51%
East Riding of Yorkshire	22.88%	77.12%
North Yorkshire	22.36%	77.64%
East Sussex	21.12%	78.88%
Northamptonshire	19.67%	80.33%
Bristol	18.77%	81.23%
Wiltshire	18.04%	81.96%
South Yorkshire	17.60%	82.40%
Durham	16.93%	83.07%
Suffolk	15.87%	84.13%
Hertfordshire	14.89%	85.11%
Greater Manchester	14.49%	85.51%
Hampshire	12.63%	87.37%



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Students' Comments:

"Yes, **for over-10s only**. As it can be constructive to **entertain ourselves**."

Primary School, West Midlands

"I think under 13s should have Instagram but **only if they use it in the right way** so that they **don't see inappropriate stuff** that is not meant for them."

Primary School, Greater London

"I believe that young kids should not be on social media but if they are they **may as well be on a platform made for children**."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"As long as **children's accounts are kept private**, their **parents keep an eye on this** and they don't have any contact with people they don't know, I think Instagram is a **lovely way to keep up to date** with world events."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"Many under-13s **already use normal Instagram** and a **safer version should be put in place** for them."

Secondary School, Berkshire

"I think that children under 13 shouldn't have Instagram, because it **might not be safe**, and you could get **dangerous messages**."

Primary School, Hertfordshire

"Anyone could get into the account and **jeopardise the safety** of vulnerable children."

Primary School, West Midlands

"There's **no way to verify an age** even if it's to be younger than you are. **How will they stop adults** faking their age to join?"

Primary School, Surrey

"Children are **more vulnerable** and do not need access to these sites. They don't even need a phone. They need a childhood where they can **build their social skills with other people in real life**."

Secondary School, South Yorkshire



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"I don't think anyone from the age of 10-13 would seriously consider using it. There is also the concern that with **under-13s being located in one specific place**, it may be, in fact, easier for dangerous people to **exploit the privacy of young people.**"

Secondary School, Bristol

"I do not think that there should be an Instagram for under-13s because there could be much more of an **increase of cyber bullying** than there already is and so the **mental health of a child under thirteen can be scarred.**"

Secondary School, West Midlands

"There is still a chance **older people will access the app**, posing as under 13's and becoming **a risk to children.**"

Secondary School, West Midlands

"I think it is evident that social media is **one of the largest contributors to mental health issues** and young and impressionable children should be **protected from that toxic environment.**"

College, Leicestershire

"I think children on social media would be **too vulnerable to online grooming.** Although educating children on the dangers of social media is beneficial, children may not be fully aware of the extent of the dangers. Also, social media **can be very damaging to mental health.** Adults take 'breaks' from social media, so if children were to consume social media, there may be **harmful effects such as low self-esteem.** Instead, children should be put forward in more sociable activities which would allow them to gain skills needed when moving further in education and boost their confidence. e.g. summer camps, afterschool clubs."

College, Leicestershire

"Children under the age of 14 should not go on social media. You must be of an age to **have a strong sense of agency to resist the negative influences** of social media and avoid internalisation of **societal expectations**, stereotypes and overall damaging content that is **impossible to filter and censor from young, impressionable minds** on all platforms."

College, Leicestershire



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