

## Does uniform limit self-expression?

18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Sample of 18,312 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](mailto: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 KS1:

“Do school uniforms make it harder to be ourselves?”

#### Question Primary KS2:

“Do school uniforms make it harder to show our true selves?”

#### Question Secondary:

“Does uniform limit self-expression?”

#### Question Secondary 16+ & College:

“Is uniform a barrier to self-expression?”

### Grand Total

#### Primary KS1:

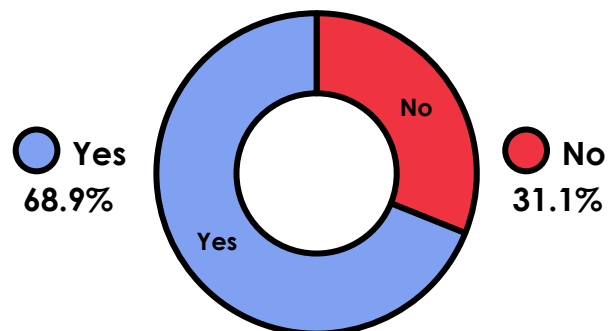
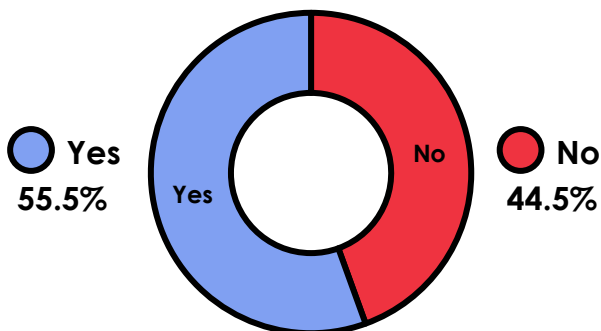
“Do school uniforms make it harder to be ourselves?”

Yes	55.53%
No	44.47%

#### Primary KS2:

“Do school uniforms make it harder to show our true selves?”

Yes	68.92%
No	31.08%



**Be informed.**



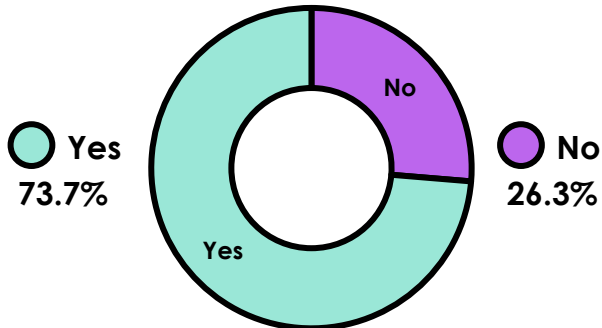
**Be curious.**



**Be heard.**

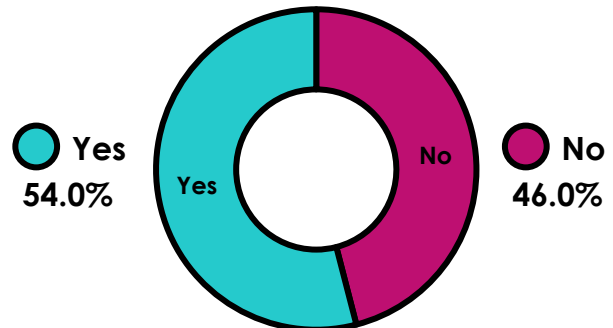
Secondary:  
 "Does uniform limit self-expression?"

Yes 73.68%  
 No 26.32%



Secondary 16+ & College:  
 "Is uniform a barrier to self-expression?"

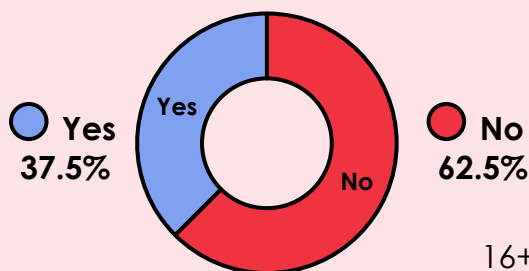
Yes 54.03%  
 No 45.97%



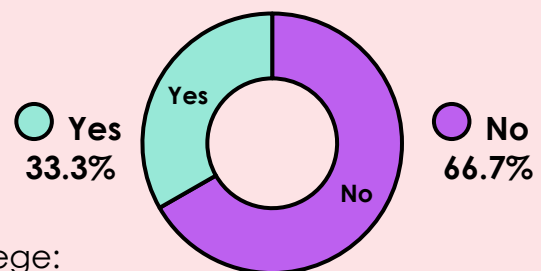
### How does this compare to previous VoteTopics?

In 2020, during the week of 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, we asked **Primary and Secondary students "Is it important to fit in at school?"** and Secondary 16+ and College students "Do labels unite us?". These were the results:

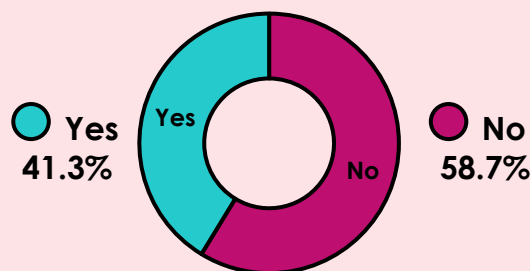
Primary:



Secondary:



16+ & College:



### Gender

Primary KS1: "Do school uniforms make it harder to be ourselves?"

	Yes	No
Female	56.70%	43.30%
Male	54.88%	45.12%
Diverse*	44.44%	55.56%



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### Primary KS2: "Do school uniforms make it harder to show our true selves?"

	Yes	No
Female	68.84%	31.16%
Male	68.93%	31.07%
Diverse*	69.82%	30.18%

### Secondary: "Does uniform limit self-expression?"

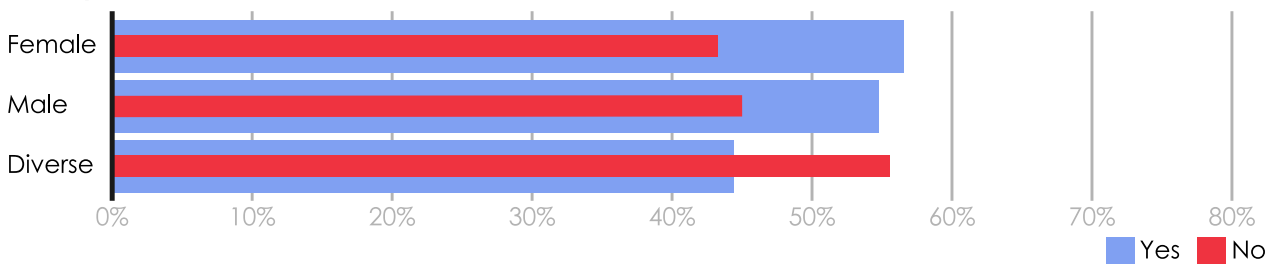
	Yes	No
Female	80.05%	19.95%
Male	67.40%	32.60%
Diverse*	72.99%	27.01%

### 16+ & College: "Is uniform a barrier to self-expression?"

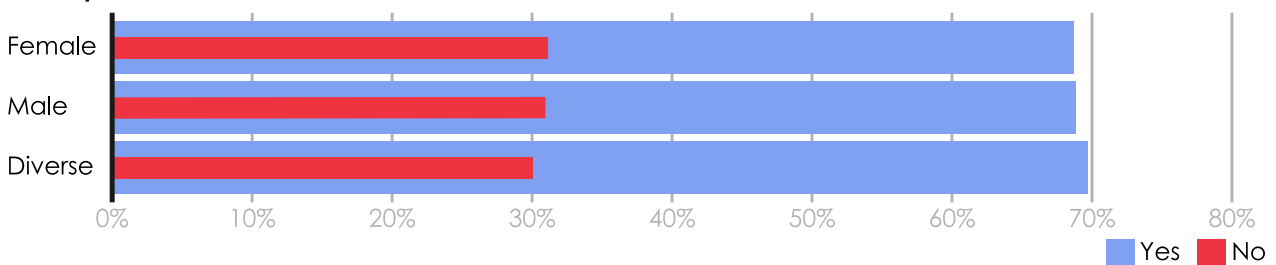
	Yes	No
Female	63.43%	36.57%
Male	41.61%	58.39%
Diverse*	72.73%	27.27%

\*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.

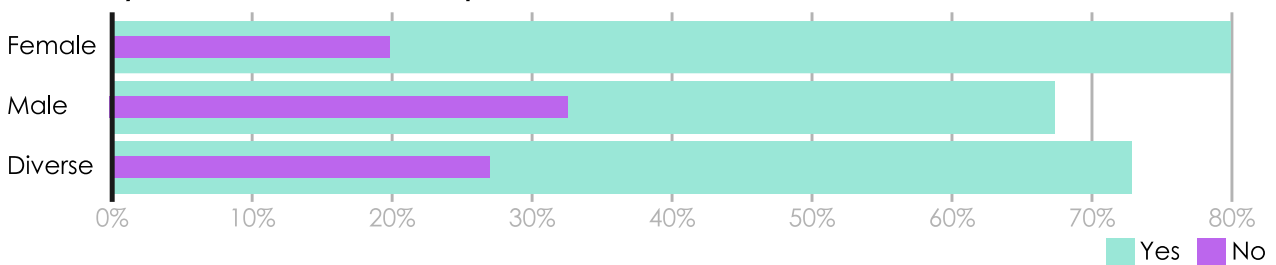
### Primary KS1: "Do school uniforms make it harder to be ourselves?"



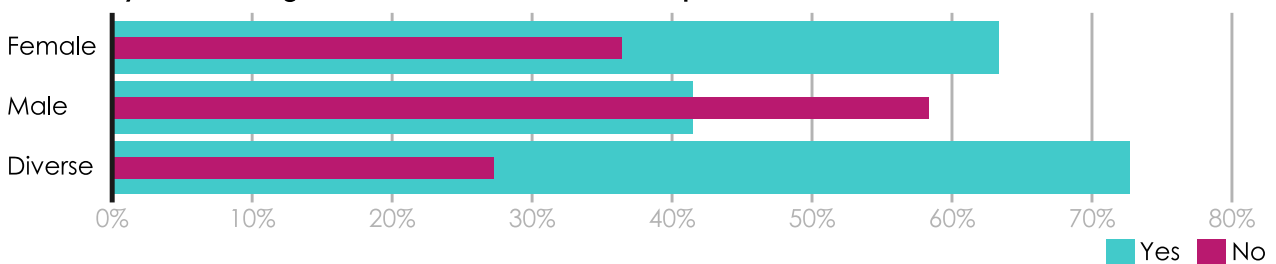
### Primary KS2: "Do school uniforms make it harder to show our true selves?"



### Secondary: "Does uniform limit self-expression?"



### Secondary 16+ & College: "Is uniform a barrier to self-expression?"



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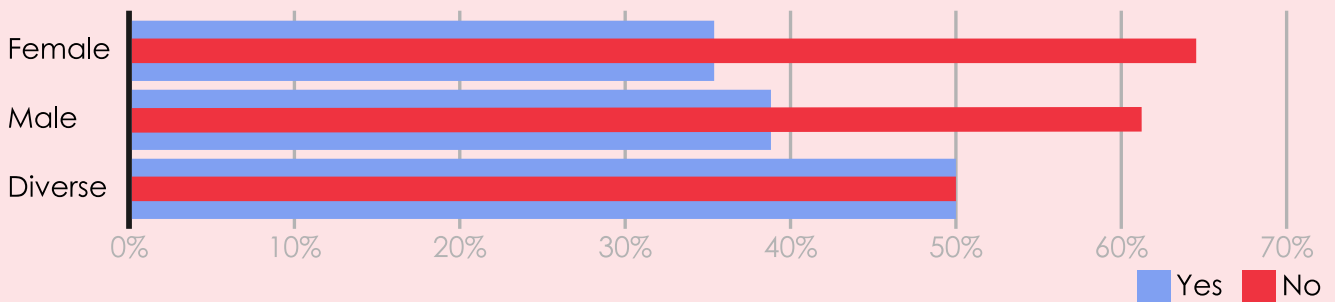
The following chart looks at the above **YES VOTES** and reflects how the results between the gender groups compares to the overall results of Primary, Secondary and 16+ & Colleges:

	Primary KS1	Primary KS2	Secondary	16+ & College
Female	↑ +2.11%	↓ -0.12%	↑ +8.64%	↑ +17.40%
Male	↓ -1.17%	↑ +0.01%	↓ -8.52%	↓ -22.99%
Diverse*	↓ -19.97%	↑ +1.31%	↓ -0.94%	↑ +34.61%

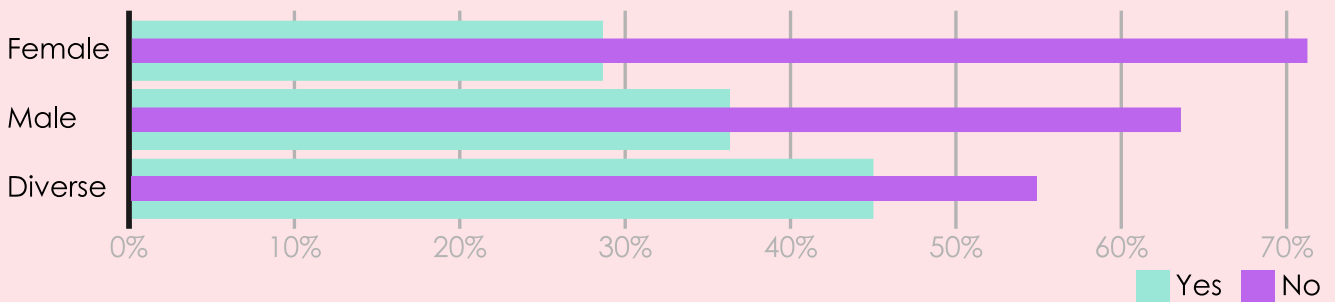
### How does this compare to previous VoteTopics?

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

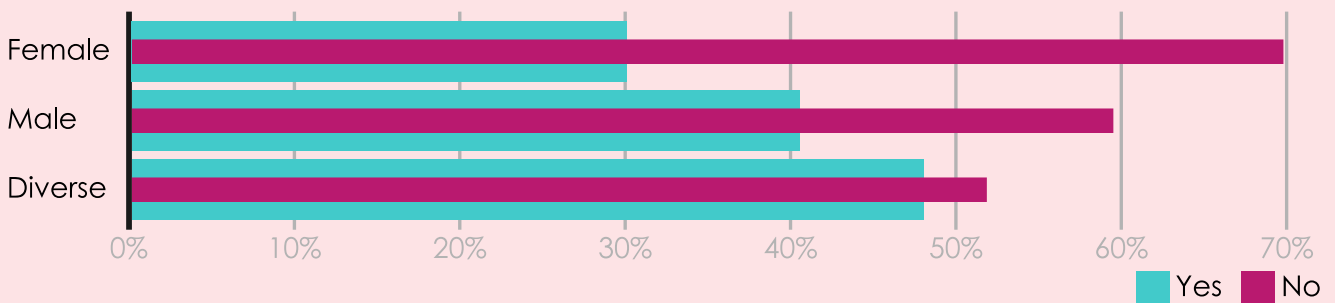
#### Primary: "Is it important to fit in at school?"



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



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



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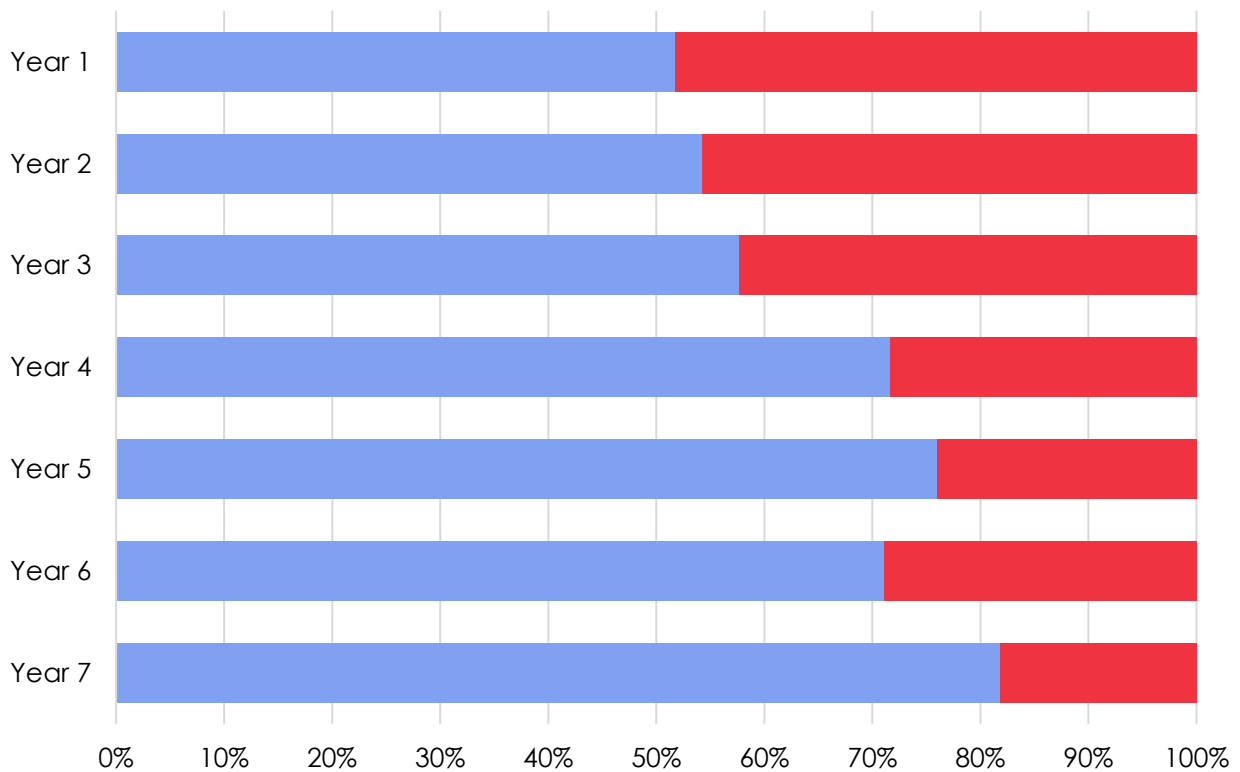
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### Age

Primary KS1 & KS2: "Do school uniforms make it harder to be ourselves/ show our true selves?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 1	51.74%	48.26%
Year 2	54.27%	45.73%
Year 3	57.62%	42.38%
Year 4	71.65%	28.35%
Year 5	75.96%	24.04%
Year 6	71.09%	28.91%
Year 7	81.82%	18.18%



Secondary & College: "Does uniform limit self-expression?"/ "Is uniform a barrier to self-expression?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 7	76.45%	23.55%
Year 8	74.56%	25.44%
Year 9	72.07%	27.93%
Year 10	67.70%	32.30%
Year 11	60.47%	39.53%
Year 12	45.27%	54.73%
Year 13	100%	0.00%
Vertical Tutor Group	100%	0.00%



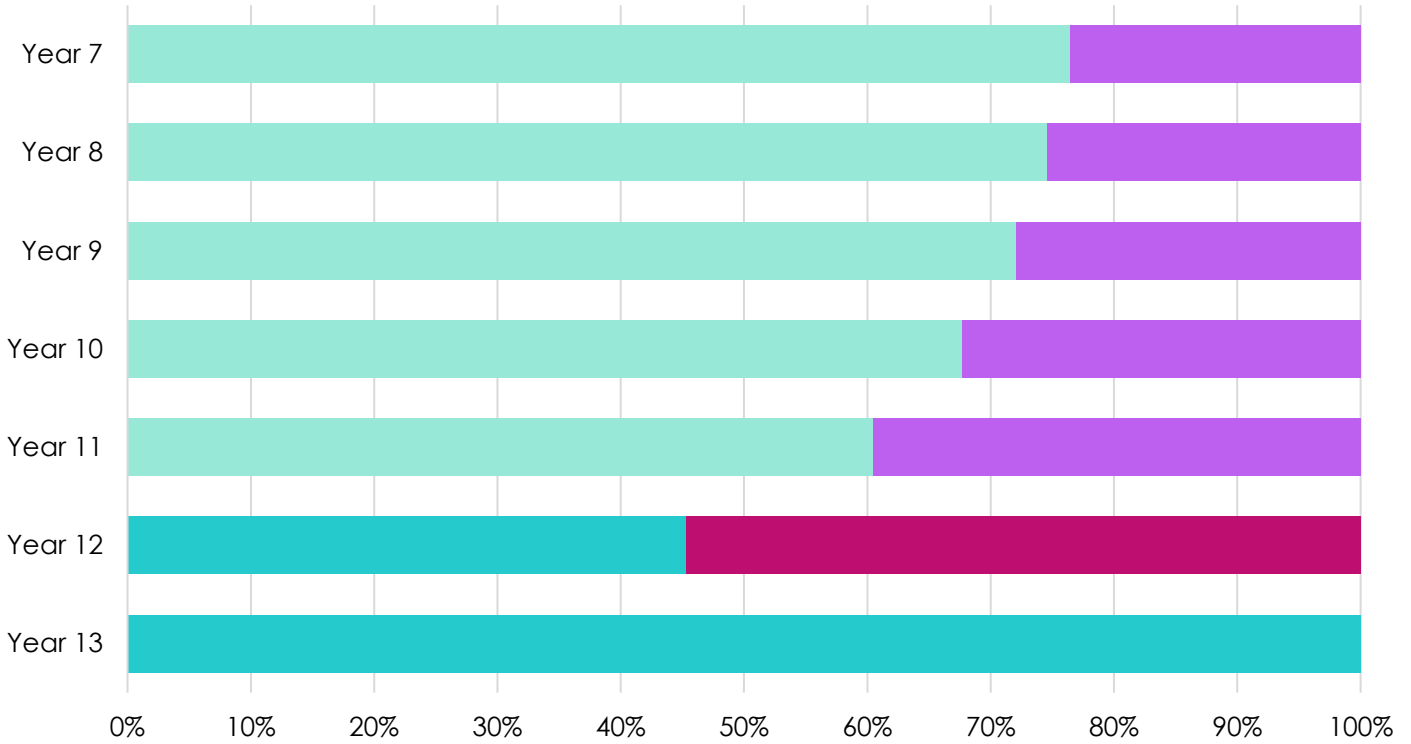
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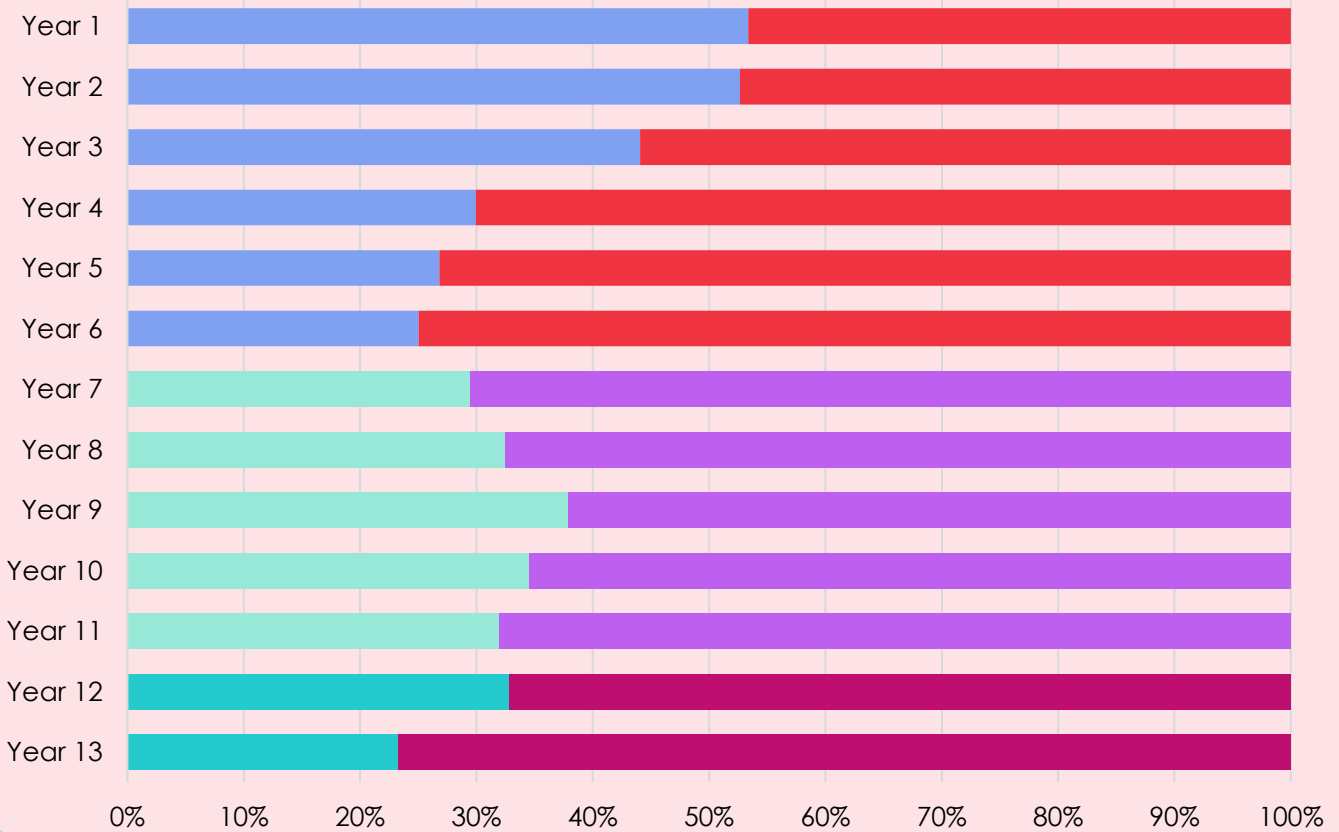


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**How does this compare to previous VoteTopics?**

13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020: “Is it important to fit in at school?” / “Do labels unite us?”



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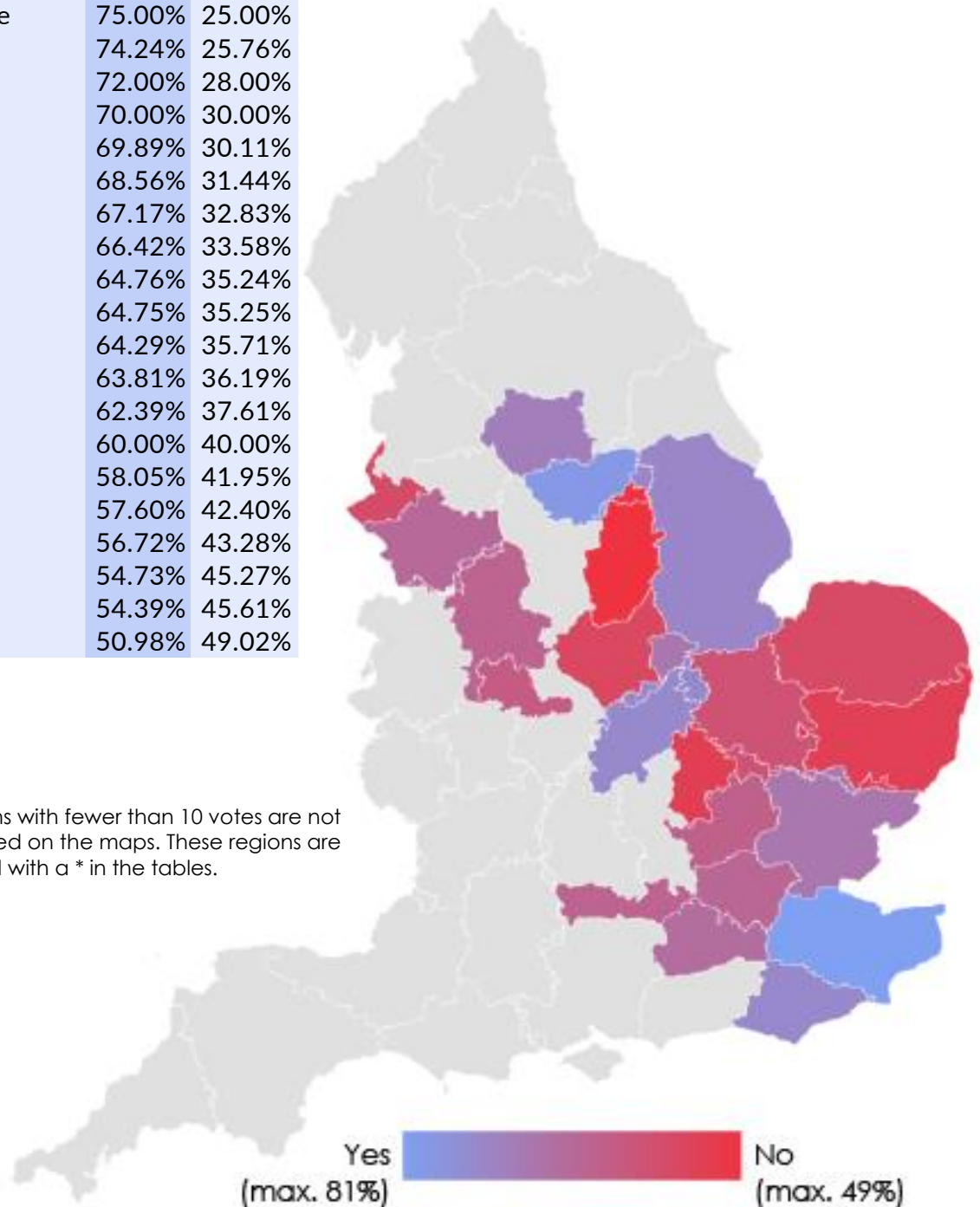


## Location

Primary KS1 & KS2: "Do school uniforms make it harder to be ourselves/ show our true selves?"

	Yes	No
Kent	81.44%	18.56%
South Yorkshire	79.41%	20.59%
Gloucestershire*	75.00%	25.00%
East Sussex	75.00%	25.00%
Northamptonshire	75.00%	25.00%
Lincolnshire	74.24%	25.76%
West Yorkshire	72.00%	28.00%
Rutland	70.00%	30.00%
Essex	69.89%	30.11%
Greater London	68.56%	31.44%
Surrey	67.17%	32.83%
Cheshire	66.42%	33.58%
Berkshire	64.76%	35.24%
Staffordshire	64.75%	35.25%
London	64.29%	35.71%
Hertfordshire	63.81%	36.19%
West Midlands	62.39%	37.61%
Cambridgeshire	60.00%	40.00%
Merseyside	58.05%	41.95%
Norfolk	57.60%	42.40%
Leicestershire	56.72%	43.28%
Suffolk	54.73%	45.27%
Bedfordshire	54.39%	45.61%
Nottinghamshire	50.98%	49.02%

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



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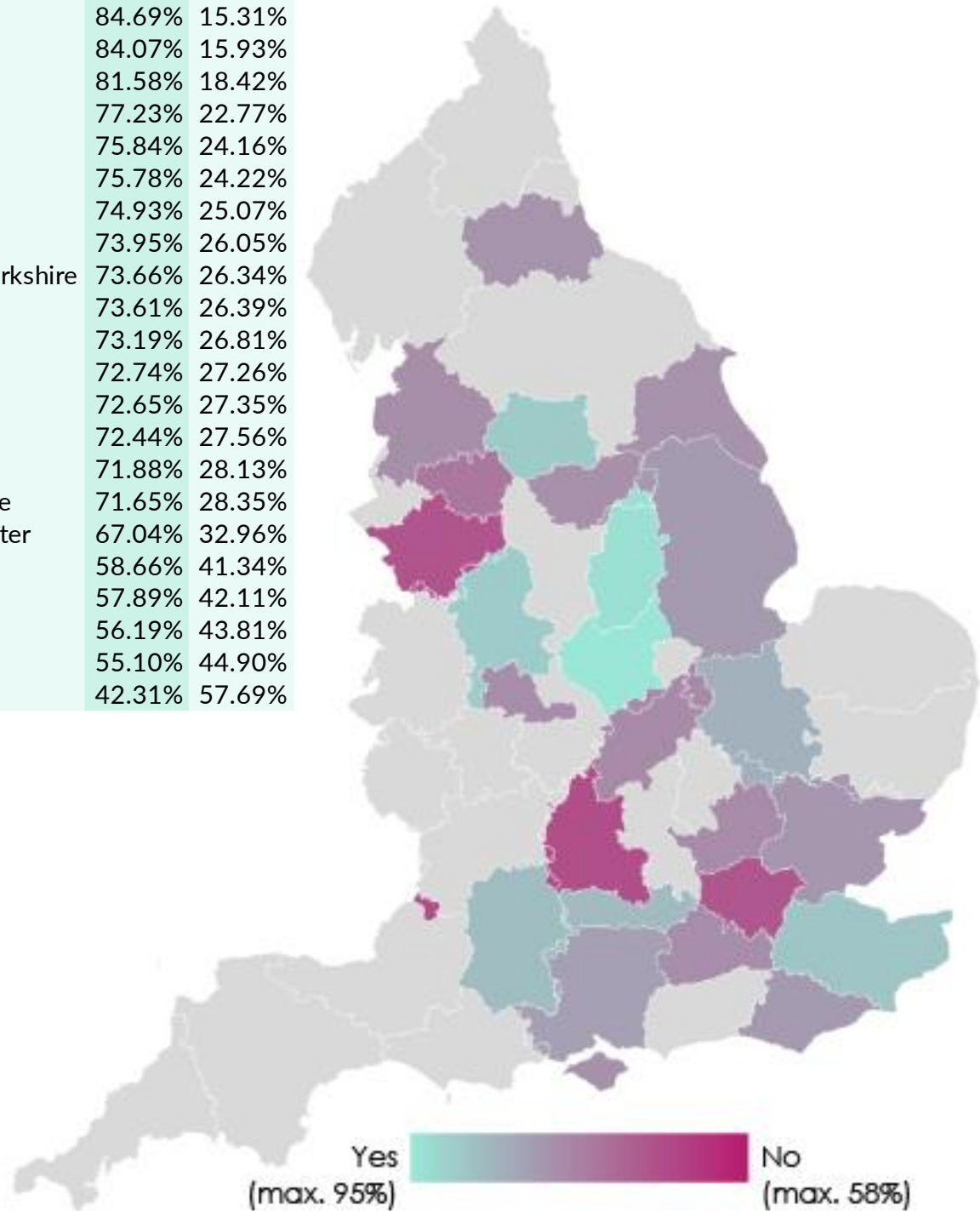


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Secondary & College: "Does uniform limit self-expression?"/ "Is uniform a barrier to self-expression?"

	Yes	No
Leicestershire	95.45%	4.55%
Nottinghamshire	93.55%	6.45%
Staffordshire	88.57%	11.43%
West Yorkshire	88.00%	12.00%
Kent	86.88%	13.13%
Wiltshire	84.69%	15.31%
Berkshire	84.07%	15.93%
Cambridgeshire	81.58%	18.42%
Hampshire	77.23%	22.77%
East Sussex	75.84%	24.16%
Lincolnshire	75.78%	24.22%
Essex	74.93%	25.07%
Durham	73.95%	26.05%
East Riding of Yorkshire	73.66%	26.34%
Isle of Wight	73.61%	26.39%
South Yorkshire	73.19%	26.81%
Surrey	72.74%	27.26%
Lancashire	72.65%	27.35%
West Midlands	72.44%	27.56%
Hertfordshire	71.88%	28.13%
Northamptonshire	71.65%	28.35%
Greater Manchester	67.04%	32.96%
London	58.66%	41.34%
Cheshire	57.89%	42.11%
Oxfordshire	56.19%	43.81%
Bristol	55.10%	44.90%
North Yorkshire	42.31%	57.69%



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### Pupils' Comments - Primary KS1 & KS2:

"Do school uniforms make it harder to be ourselves/ show our true selves?"

"School uniform makes it **harder to express culture**, passions and **individual style**. It makes it harder for pupils to **identify others who have common interests** with them."

Primary School, Essex

"Although school uniform makes it **harder to express your true self**, it can help you to **feel part of a community** and keep you safe as you're **easily identifiable**."

Primary School, Essex

"No, it doesn't make any difference what you wear - you are **still the same person regardless of your clothes**. You can wear a uniform in the week and **whatever you feel comfortable in at the weekend**."

Primary School, Leicestershire

"No matter what you **wear**, you can still show your **personality by the way you act**."

Primary School, Hertfordshire

### Students' Comments – Secondary & College:

"Does uniform limit self-expression?" / "Is uniform a barrier to self-expression?"

"While school uniform does **limit self-expression**, it **makes you to talk to people** instead of **judging** them based on their clothes. You have to actually **talk to someone to get to know them** rather than seeing what they are wearing and not approaching them at all."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"Although it **promotes unity** and **discards socio economic status and wealth**, having a uniform that makes everybody look the same **decreases diversity** in a school environment and **dismisses creativity** and self-expression."

Secondary School, Lancashire



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"In a world in which **diversity** should be welcomed and celebrated, **school uniforms limit your sense of individuality**, rendering you like everyone else, leaving you unable to **express your personality**."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"**Self-expression** does not have to be through what you wear; it can be through your **personality** and **how you act**. We are **not at school to be in fashion**, we are at school to **learn and develop**, and be yourself. Your **personality** allows you to do this."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"Uniform **does limit self-expression**, but it also means that people **don't feel left out** if you don't have the **new fashion of clothes**."

Secondary School, West

"I can see the **benefits of wearing uniforms** in school, but what limits our self-expression is **when we are denied to ways to get creative** (i.e., jewellery, hair dye, makeup, haircuts, nails) I like the uniforms because **people see me for me**. My family can't afford nice things and the uniform doesn't remind me of that every day."

Secondary School,  
Greater Manchester



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