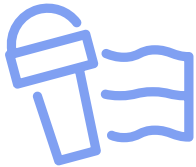


## Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?

29<sup>th</sup> October – 05<sup>th</sup> November 2021



**82.43%**

of Primary KS1 voters said Yes.



**70.58%**

of Primary KS2 voters said Yes.



**49.90%**

of Secondary voters said Yes.



**60.64%**

of 16+ & College voters said Yes.

This week's VoteTopic lesson shone light on whether the teaching of political literacy should be compulsory in schools. As the first week of November is UK Parliament Week, it made sense to see what our voters thought about this topic.

Having the skills to get involved in making and understanding political decisions is necessary. This meant it was important to bring this to our voters as they are the future and government decisions will affect them.

34,218 young people in the UK took part and it was interesting to see how strongly they may have felt about this week's VoteTopic lesson.

### Sample of 34,218 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:**

"Should children learn more about the decisions our leaders make?"

##### **Question Primary KS2:**

"Should you have to learn about politics in school?"

##### **Question Secondary:**

"Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?"



**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**



**Be heard.**



### Question Secondary 16+ & College:

“Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?”

#### Grand Total

Primary KS1:

“Should children learn more about the decisions our leaders make?”

Yes 82.43%

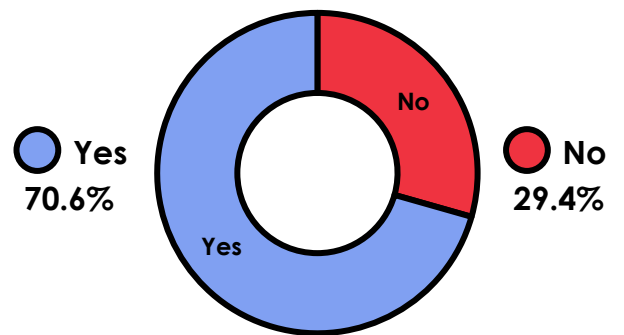
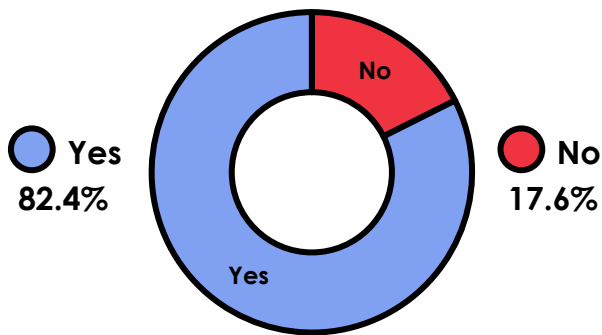
No 17.57%

Primary KS2:

“Should you have to learn about politics in school?”

Yes 70.58%

No 29.42%



Secondary:

“Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?”

Yes 49.90%

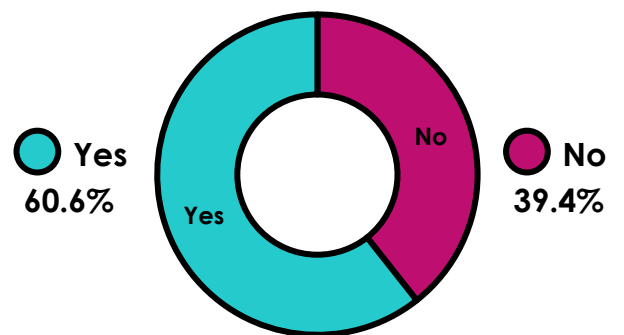
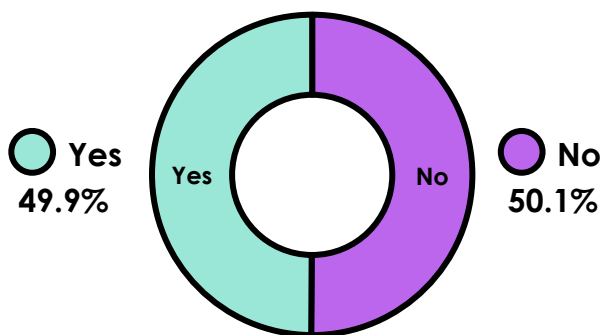
No 50.10%

Secondary 16+ & College:

“Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?”

Yes 60.64%

No 39.36%



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.



## Gender

Primary KS1: "Should children learn more about the decisions our leaders make?"

	Yes	No
Female	74.19%	25.81%
Male	67.56%	32.44%
Diverse*	61.21%	38.79%

Primary KS2: "Should you have to learn about politics in school?"

	Yes	No
Female	83.60%	16.40%
Male	80.81%	19.19%
Diverse*	85.42%	14.58%

Secondary: "Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?"

	Yes	No
Female	53.02%	46.98%
Male	46.69%	53.31%
Diverse*	50.71%	49.29%

16+ & College: "Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?"

	Yes	No
Female	66.00%	34.00%
Male	57.27%	42.73%
Diverse*	49.59%	50.41%

\*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.**

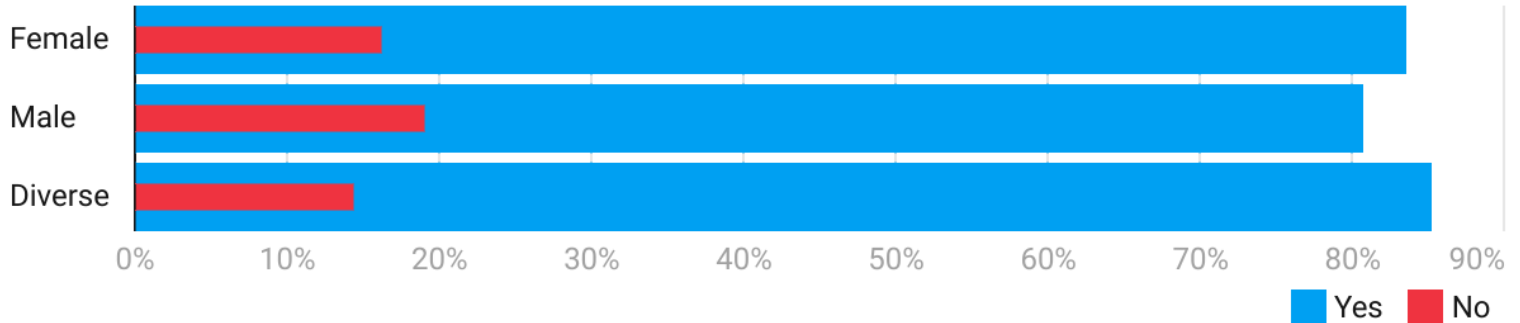


**Be heard.**

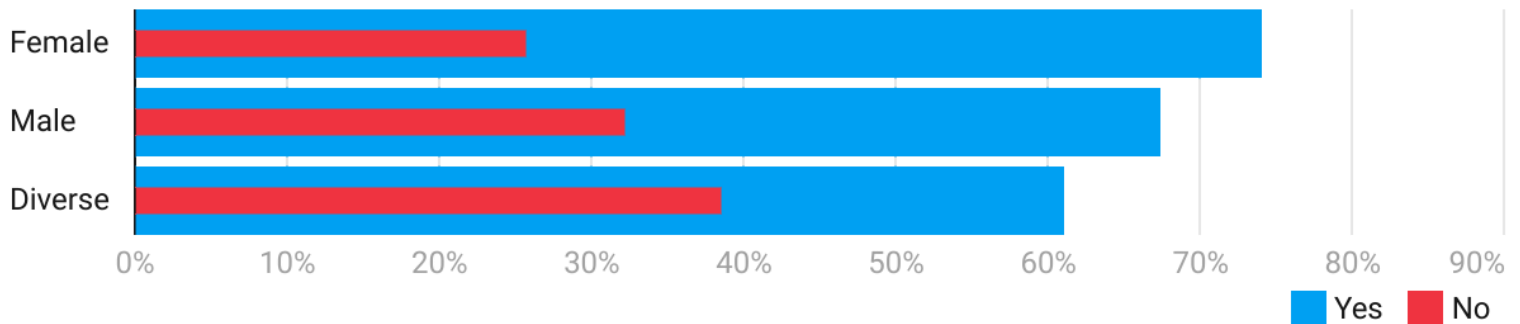
Demtech Ltd T/A: VotesforSchools  
CRN 09940208, registered in England and Wales  
33 Lowndes Street, London, SW1X 9HX  
Office Address: Unit LMLF 2.4, The Leather Market,  
Weston Street, London Bridge, SE1 3ER



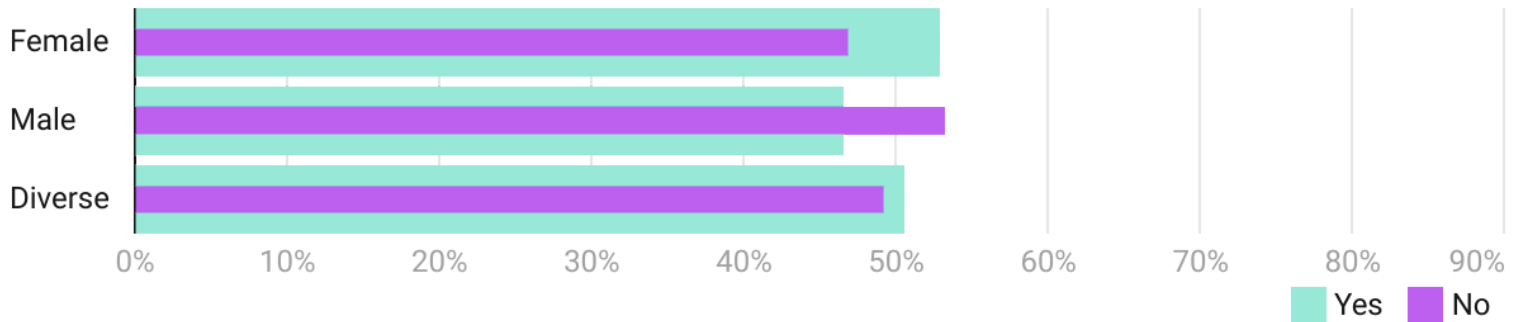
### Primary KS1: "Should children learn more about the decisions our leaders make?"



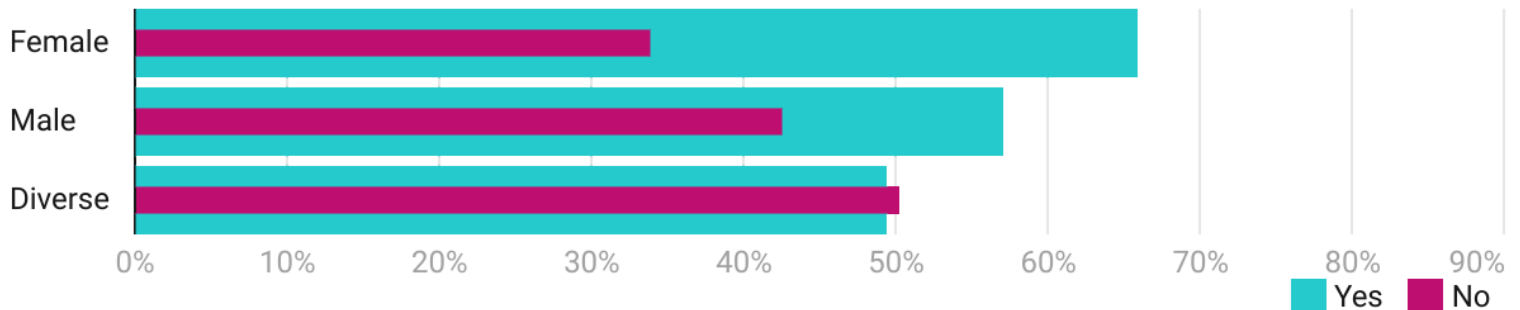
### Primary KS2: "Should you have to learn about politics in school?"



### Secondary: "Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?"



### 16+ & College: "Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?"



**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**



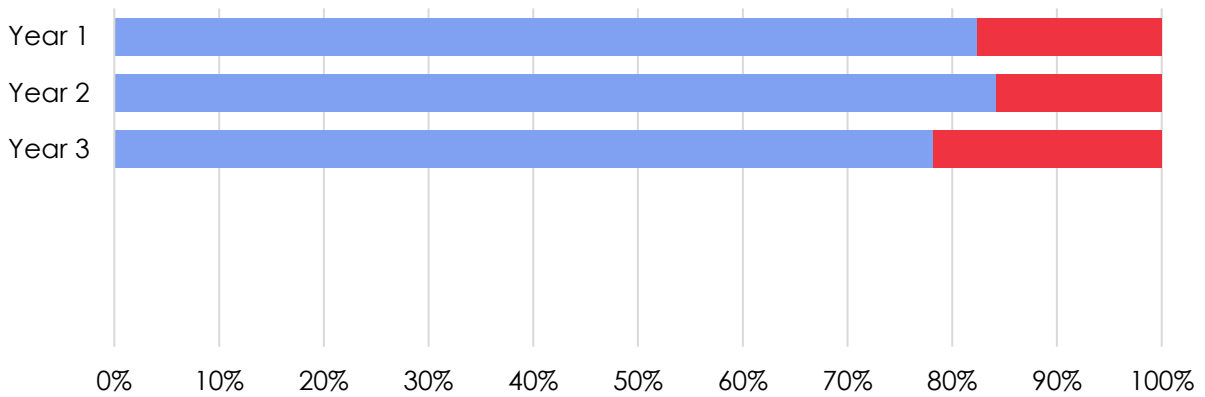
**Be heard.**



### Age

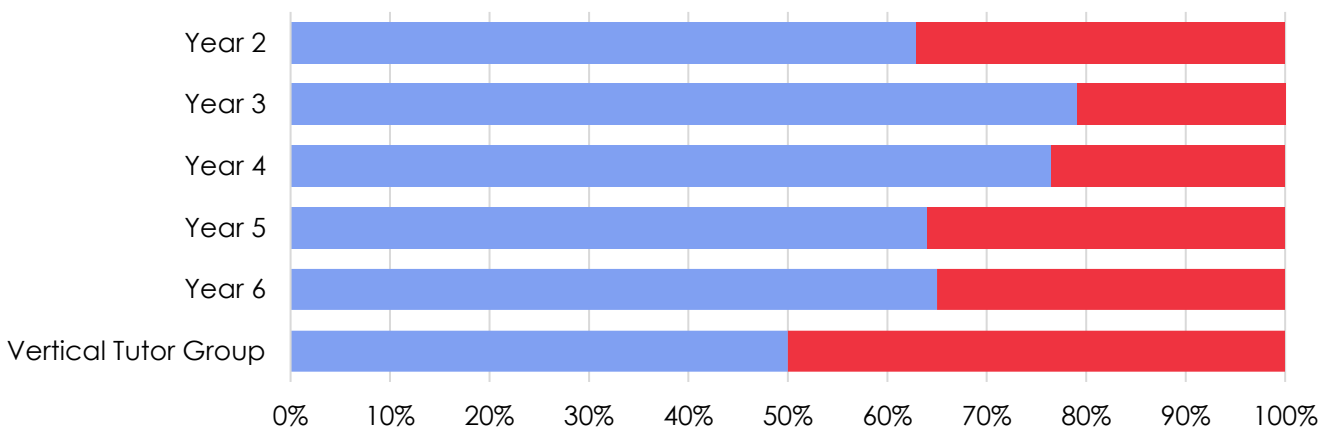
Primary KS1: "Should children learn more about the decisions our leaders make?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 1	82.40%	17.60%
Year 2	84.19%	15.81%
Year 3	78.19%	21.81%
Vertical Tutor Group	77.97%	22.03%



Primary KS2: "Should you have to learn about politics in school?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 2	62.96%	37.04%
Year 3	79.07%	20.93%
Year 4	76.50%	23.50%
Year 5	64.02%	35.98%
Year 6	65.01%	34.99%
Vertical Tutor Group	50.00%	50.00%



Be informed.



Be curious.

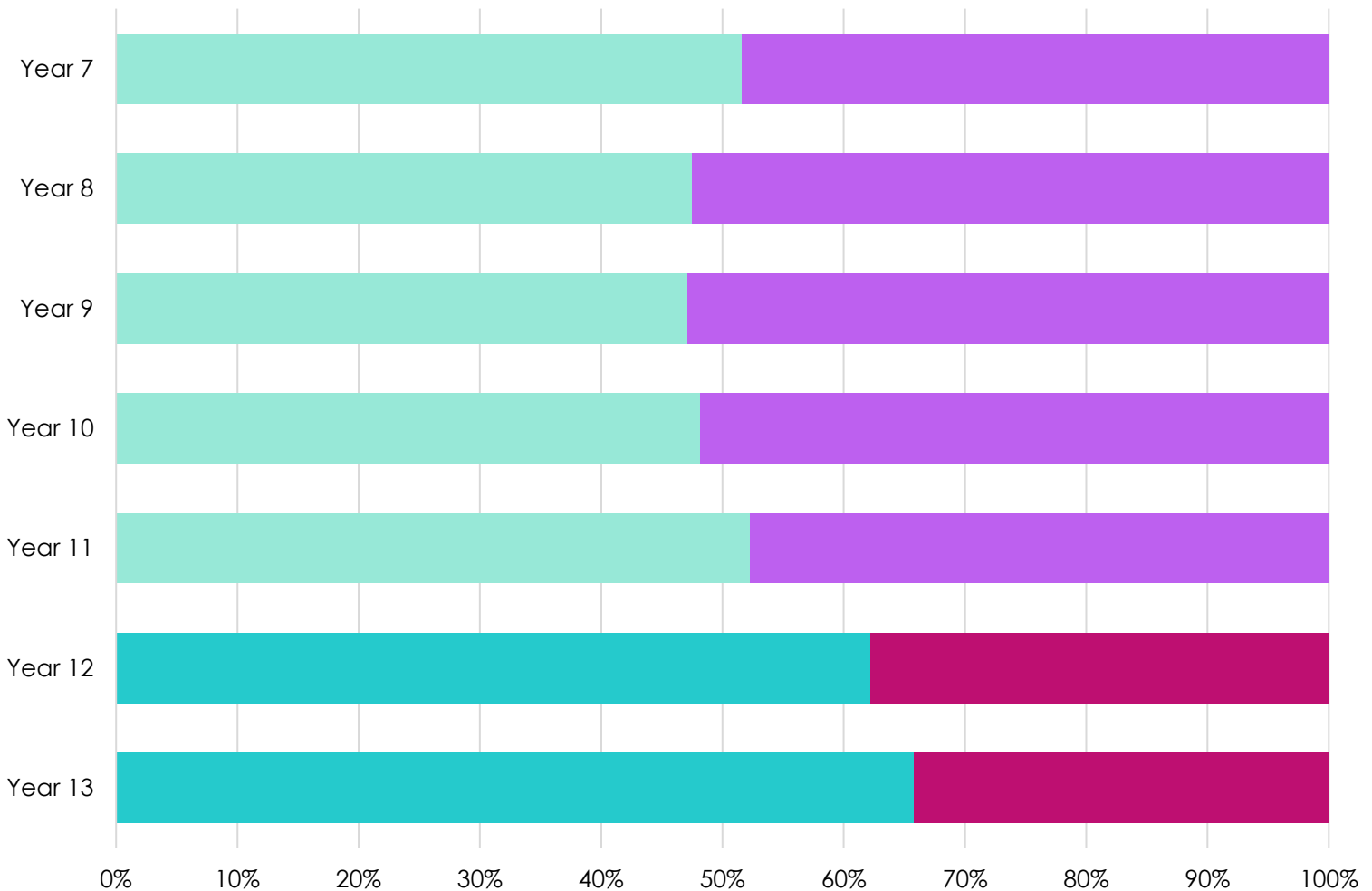


Be heard.



## Secondary, 16+ & College: "Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?"

	Yes	No
Year 7	51.64%	48.36%
Year 8	47.53%	52.47%
Year 9	47.11%	52.89%
Year 10	48.20%	51.80%
Year 11	52.29%	47.71%
Year 12	62.21%	37.79%
Year 13	65.79%	34.21%
Vertical Tutor Group	57.41%	42.59%





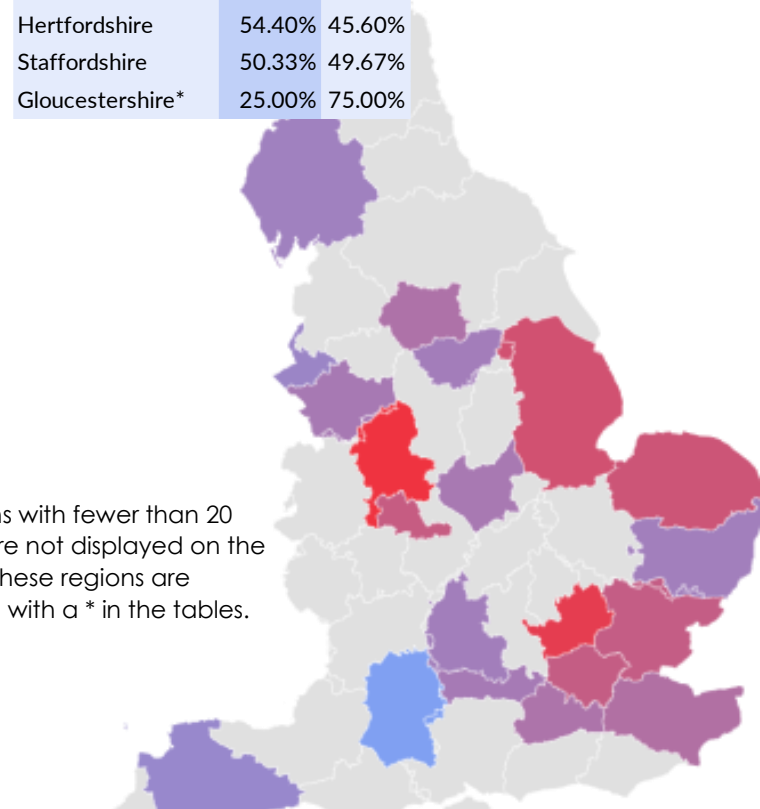
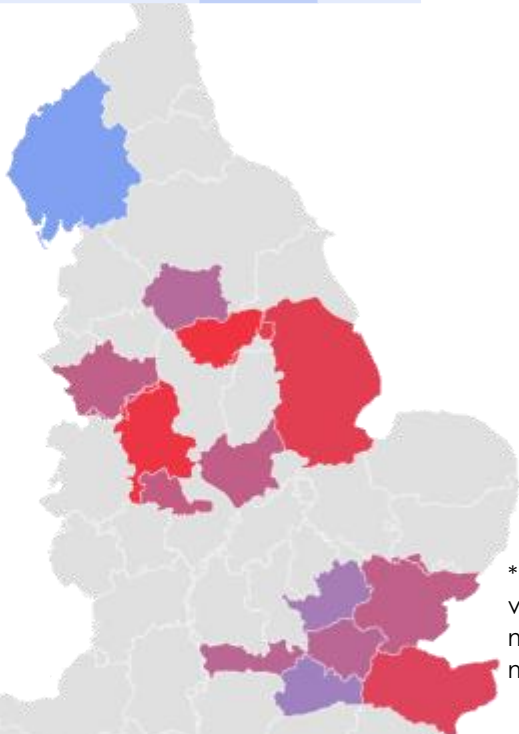
### Location

Primary KS1: "Should children learn more about the decisions our leaders make?"

	Yes	No
Cumbria	100.00%	0.00%
Surrey	91.07%	8.93%
Hertfordshire	89.55%	10.45%
West Yorkshire	85.33%	14.67%
Greater London	84.93%	15.07%
Berkshire	83.78%	16.22%
London	83.10%	16.90%
Cheshire	81.90%	18.10%
Essex	81.89%	18.11%
Leicestershire	81.76%	18.24%
West Midlands	80.82%	19.18%
Kent	74.07%	25.93%
Lincolnshire	72.58%	27.42%
Staffordshire	70.16%	29.84%
South Yorkshire	69.23%	30.77%

Primary KS2: "Should you have to learn about politics in school?"

	Yes	No
Hampshire*	100.00%	0.00%
Wiltshire	95.45%	4.55%
Devon	85.71%	14.29%
Merseyside	84.42%	15.58%
Cumbria	82.64%	17.36%
Suffolk	81.70%	18.30%
Oxfordshire	81.48%	18.52%
South Yorkshire	81.16%	18.84%
Berkshire	79.91%	20.09%
Cheshire	79.49%	20.51%
Leicestershire	79.23%	20.77%
Surrey	77.12%	22.88%
West Yorkshire	76.58%	23.42%
Kent	75.40%	24.60%
Greater London	70.12%	29.88%
Essex	67.80%	32.20%
West Midlands	67.18%	32.82%
London	65.53%	34.47%
Norfolk	64.36%	35.64%
Lincolnshire	62.71%	37.29%
Hertfordshire	54.40%	45.60%
Staffordshire	50.33%	49.67%
Gloucestershire*	25.00%	75.00%



\*Regions with fewer than 20 votes are not displayed on the maps. These regions are marked with a \* in the tables.

Yes (max.91%) No (max. 31%)

Yes (max.95%) No (max. 75%)



Be informed.



Be curious.

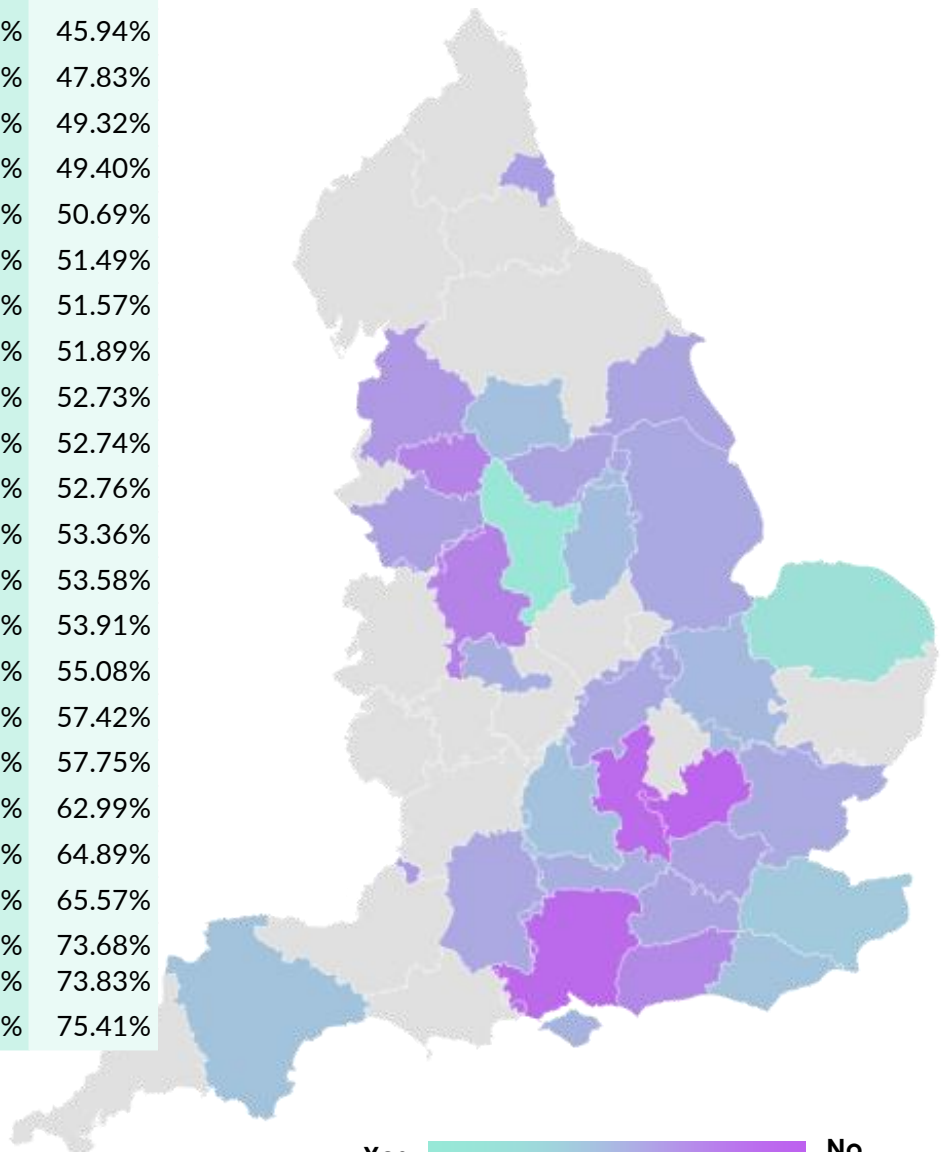


Be heard.



Secondary, 16+ & College:  
"Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?"

	Yes	No
Derbyshire	70.44%	29.56%
Norfolk	68.00%	32.00%
Dorset*	66.67%	33.33%
Kent	59.61%	40.39%
Devon	57.63%	42.37%
East Sussex	57.58%	42.42%
Oxfordshire	56.80%	43.20%
West Yorkshire	56.53%	43.47%
Nottinghamshire	55.63%	44.38%
Cambridgeshire	54.06%	45.94%
Isle of Wight	52.17%	47.83%
West Midlands	50.68%	49.32%
Berkshire	50.60%	49.40%
Essex	49.31%	50.69%
Northamptonshire	48.51%	51.49%
Lincolnshire	48.43%	51.57%
Wiltshire	48.11%	51.89%
Surrey	47.27%	52.73%
East Riding of Yorkshire	47.26%	52.74%
North Yorkshire	47.24%	52.76%
South Yorkshire	46.64%	53.36%
London	46.42%	53.58%
Cheshire	46.09%	53.91%
Tyne and Wear	44.92%	55.08%
Lancashire	42.58%	57.42%
Bristol	42.25%	57.75%
West Sussex	37.01%	62.99%
Greater Manchester	35.11%	64.89%
Staffordshire	34.43%	65.57%
Buckinghamshire	26.32%	73.68%
Hampshire	26.17%	73.83%
Hertfordshire	24.59%	75.41%



Yes (max. 70%)  No (max. 75%)



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.





## Voter Comments - Primary KS2: "Should you have to learn about politics in school?"

"I would want to **learn** about politics in school as it will set me up in High School before we **become adults** when we are able to **vote**."

Primary School, Leicestershire

"Politics is important because it **helps** you when you are **grown-up** with things such as **work choices**."

Primary School, West Midlands

"It is important to have a good understanding of politics as it affects us, and we will need to know about it for when we **vote** when we are older. If we would **like to go into politics** one day, we will need to start **learning about it now**."

Primary School, Surrey

"I think you shouldn't learn about politics in primary school because we are a little **too young** and **might not understand** and remember all the little bits but in secondary school, I think you should learn them because you're **older** and you can **study them** in just a few lessons and in primary school you don't really study you just learn."

Primary School, Hertfordshire

"I **don't** think we **need to learn** about politics in school because we are **too young**, and we might not **understand** it."

Primary School, Hertfordshire

## Voter Comments – Secondary "Should the teaching of political literacy be compulsory in schools?"

In people's everyday lives, they use political literacy and so if political literacy was **compulsory in schools**, it would **help** the **newer generation** become citizens."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"School should at least **show** us where to **find out** more about these issues. If we don't learn it from school, we'd end up learning it from **social media** which is **notoriously unreliable and biased**."

Secondary School, Lincolnshire



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.



"Provided that students are being taught **unbiased literacy**, I believe it is **important** that students are involved in politics. Our generation will be the ones making **big decisions in the future**, so we need sufficient preparation to make sure we make the **right choices**."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"I think that political literacy should be taught but **not in place of other subjects**. It's important to be **aware** of how politics **works for later life when voting and applying for jobs**, but also this could be bundled in with other 'life skills' for later life to be taught in **one lesson**"

Secondary School, Berkshire

"They think **taster sessions** should be offered, and anyone who is really interested could take it up as **an after-school activity or options subject**. They think they should learn more about **taxes and government funding** in the life curriculum."

Secondary School, West Yorkshire

"We as **young people** should be **concentrating** on our subject **studies** and **not on politics**. It should be **taught at college level** when we do our A levels or other courses."

Secondary School, Essex

There's **too much curriculum time needed for GCSE** subjects to be able to also study Political Literacy."

Secondary School, West Sussex



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.