

Was COP26 successful?

19th – 26th November 2021



69.42%

of Primary KS2
voters said No.



79.16%

of Secondary
voters said No.



83.83%

of 16+ & College
voters said No.

In September, VotesforSchools worked with UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools to get our voters' views on children's rights and climate change ahead of COP26. This topic clearly highlighted the urgency that many young people feel about this issue, and that they believe not enough is being done to tackle it.

So, did COP26 allay these concerns? That's what we sought to find out after the conference ended and we asked voters to reflect on COP26 and whether it was a success. Following extensive press coverage of powerful messages, concerted efforts, and last-minute disagreements, there was plenty for them to consider.

The VoteTopic this week allowed voters from age 8-18 to share their opinions on the question: "Was COP26 successful?". Meanwhile, our younger voters discussed the question: "Do we look after the planet?".

36,063 young people in the UK took part in this vote.

Sample of 36,063 voters

If you want more information of the exact split of the sample size across the different categories below, please contact us at ajie@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 therefore does 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 we look after the planet?"

Question Primary KS2, Secondary, 16+ & College:

"Was COP26 successful?"



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Grand Total

Primary KS1:

“Do we look after the planet?”

Yes 59.98%

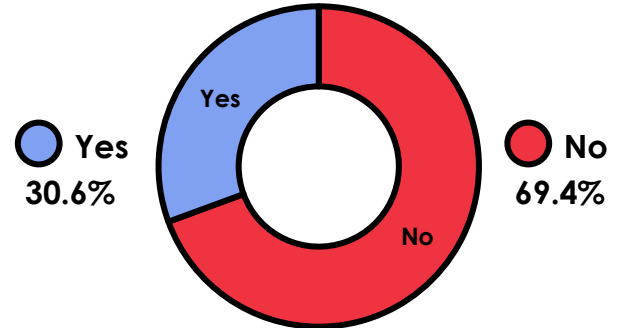
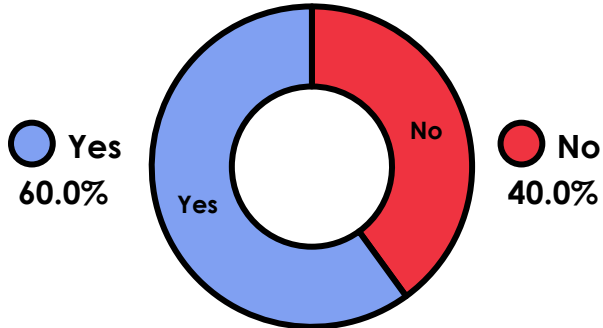
No 40.02%

Primary KS2:

“Was COP26 successful?”

Yes 30.58%

No 69.42%



Secondary:

“Was COP26 successful?”

Yes 20.84%

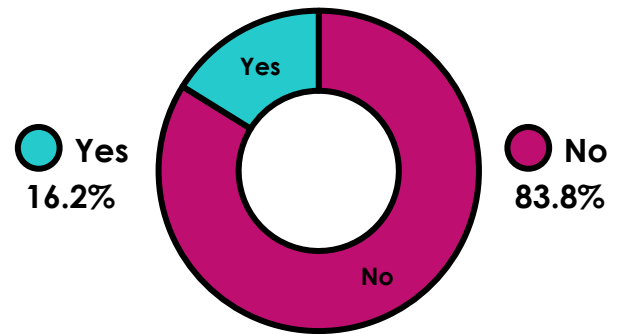
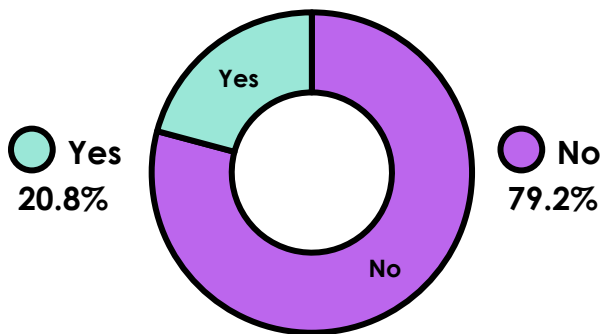
No 79.16%

Secondary 16+ & College:

“Was COP26 successful?”

Yes 16.17%

No 83.83%



Gender

Primary KS1: “Do we look after the planet?”

	Yes	No
Female	59.90%	40.10%
Male	63.18%	36.82%
Diverse*	46.07%	53.93%

Primary KS2: “Was COP26 successful?”

	Yes	No
Female	28.25%	71.75%
Male	33.20%	66.80%
Diverse*	20.49%	79.51%



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Secondary: "Was COP26 successful?"

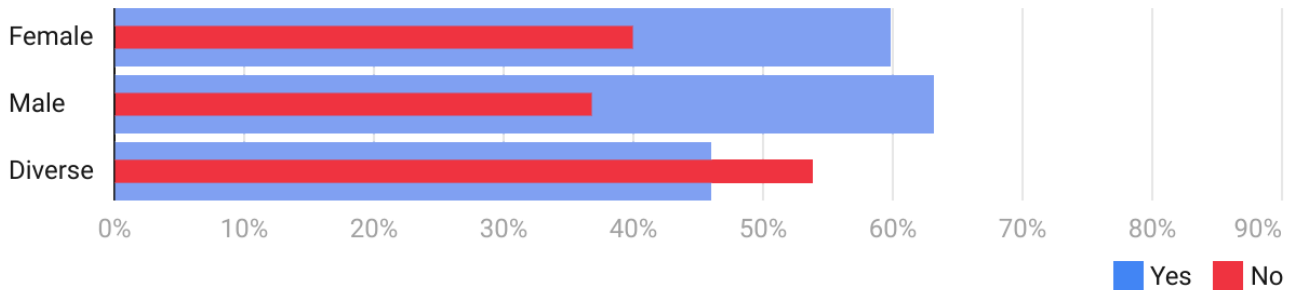
	Yes	No
Female	19.06%	80.94%
Male	23.41%	76.59%
Diverse*	18.23%	81.77%

16+ & College: "Was COP26 successful?"

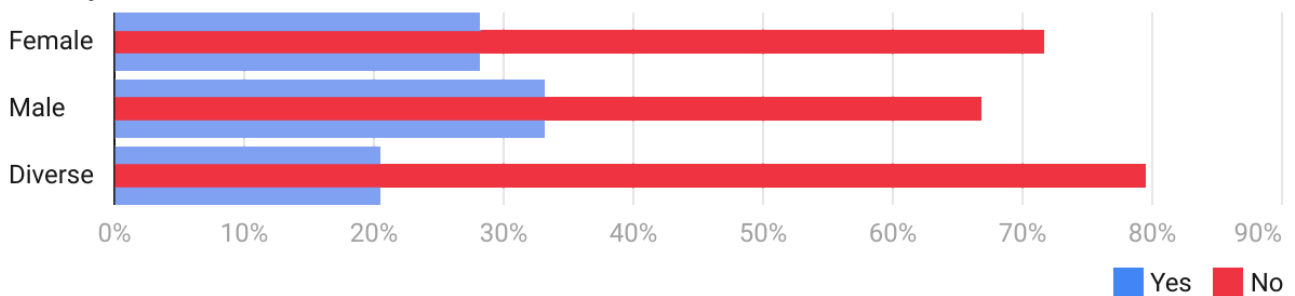
	Yes	No
Female	12.73%	87.27%
Male	18.81%	81.19%
Diverse*	21.37%	78.63%

*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.

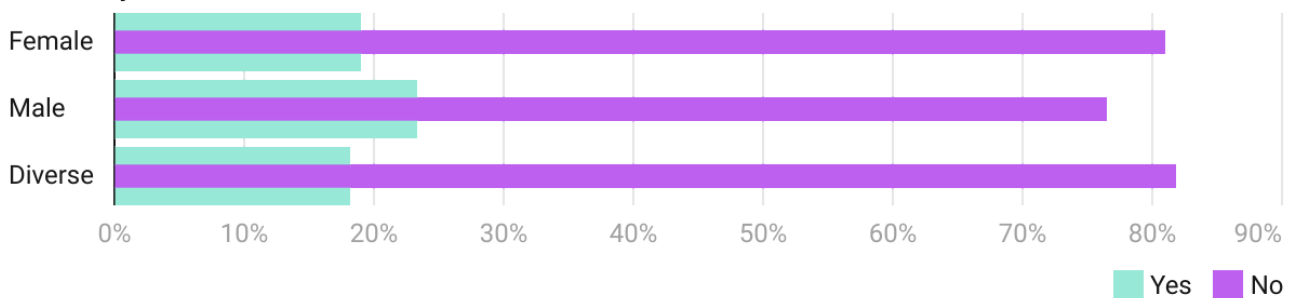
Primary KS1: "Do we look after the planet?"



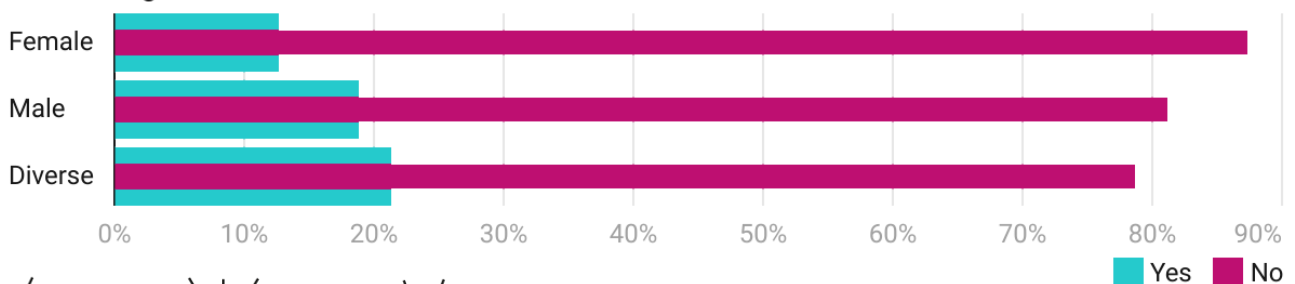
Primary KS2: "Was COP26 successful?"



Secondary: "Was COP26 successful?"



16+ & College: "Was COP26 successful?"



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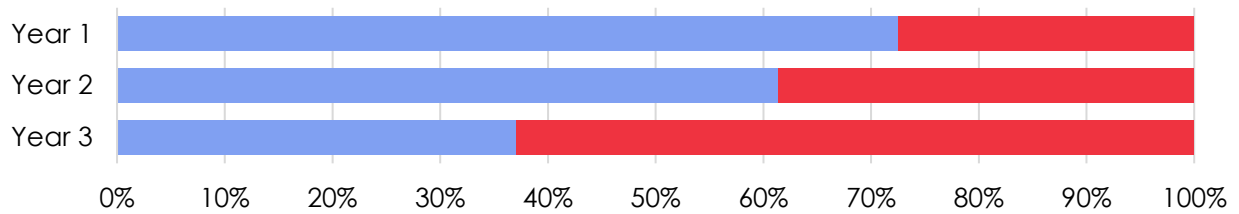
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Age

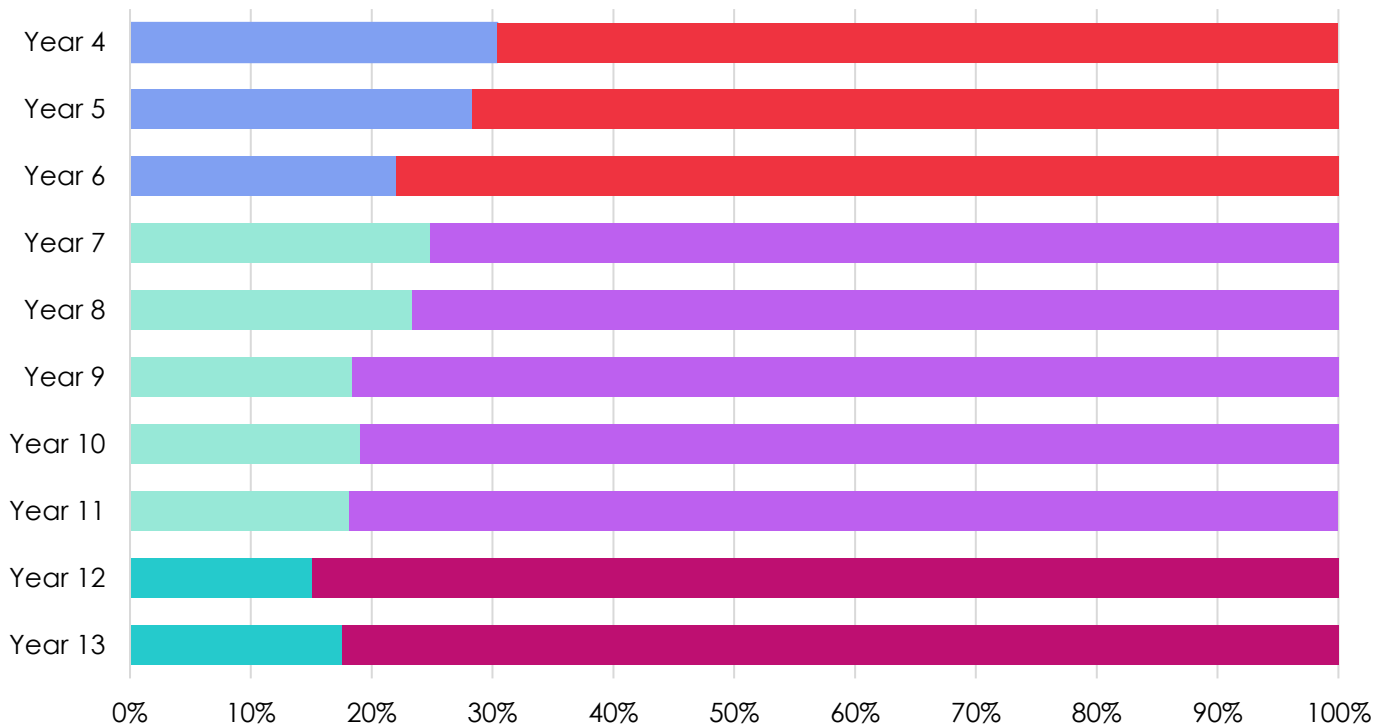
Primary KS1: "Do we look after the planet?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 1	72.53%	27.47%
Year 2	61.39%	38.61%
Year 3	37.09%	62.91%
Vertical Tutor Group	41.39%	58.61%



Primary KS2, Secondary, 16+ & College: "Was COP26 successful?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 4	30.41%	69.59%
Year 5	28.27%	71.73%
Year 6	22.02%	77.98%
Year 7	24.82%	75.18%
Year 8	23.33%	76.67%
Year 9	18.36%	81.64%
Year 10	19.06%	80.94%
Year 11	18.17%	81.83%
Year 12	15.03%	84.97%
Year 13	17.56%	82.44%
Vertical Tutor Group	27.22%	72.78%



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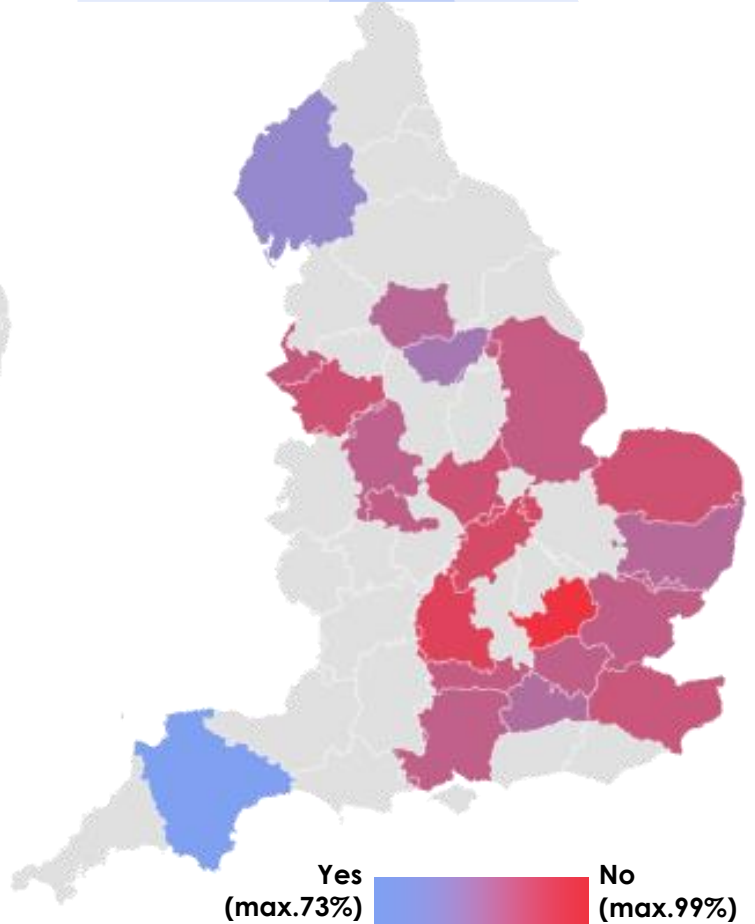
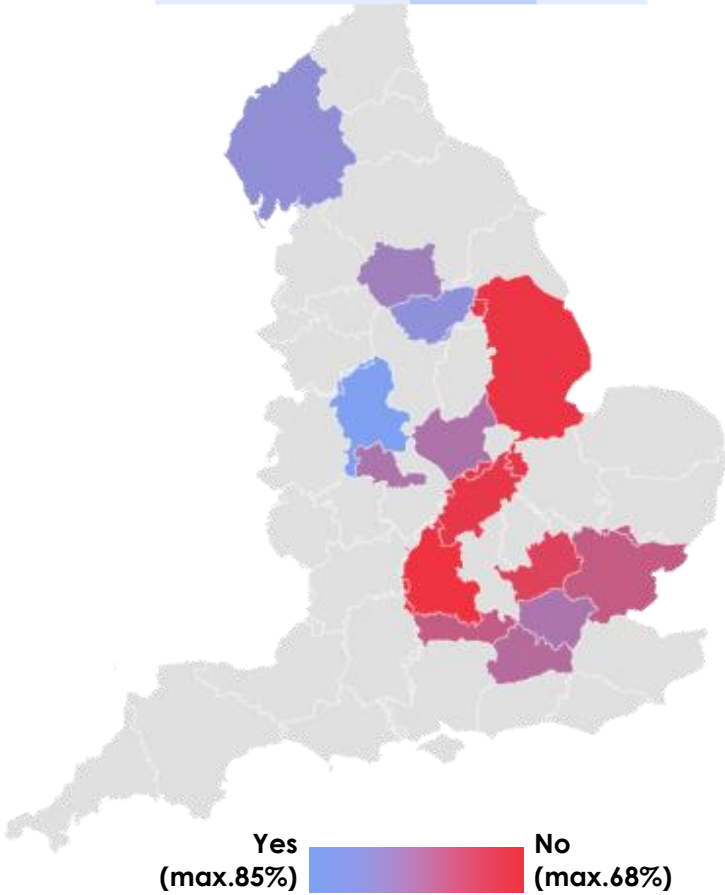
Location

Primary KS1: "Do we look after the planet?"

	Yes	No
Staffordshire	84.85%	15.15%
Merseyside*	83.33%	16.67%
South Yorkshire	78.05%	21.95%
Cumbria	77.14%	22.86%
Greater London	70.46%	29.54%
West Yorkshire	69.72%	30.28%
West Midlands	64.59%	35.41%
Leicestershire	63.66%	36.34%
Surrey	60.10%	39.90%
London	59.50%	40.50%
Berkshire	52.74%	47.26%
Essex	52.72%	47.28%
Hampshire*	47.06%	52.94%
Cheshire*	42.86%	57.14%
Hertfordshire	41.28%	58.72%
Northamptonshire	36.36%	63.64%
Lincolnshire	34.78%	65.22%
Oxfordshire	33.33%	66.67%
Norfolk*	31.58%	68.42%

Primary KS2: "Was COP26 successful?"

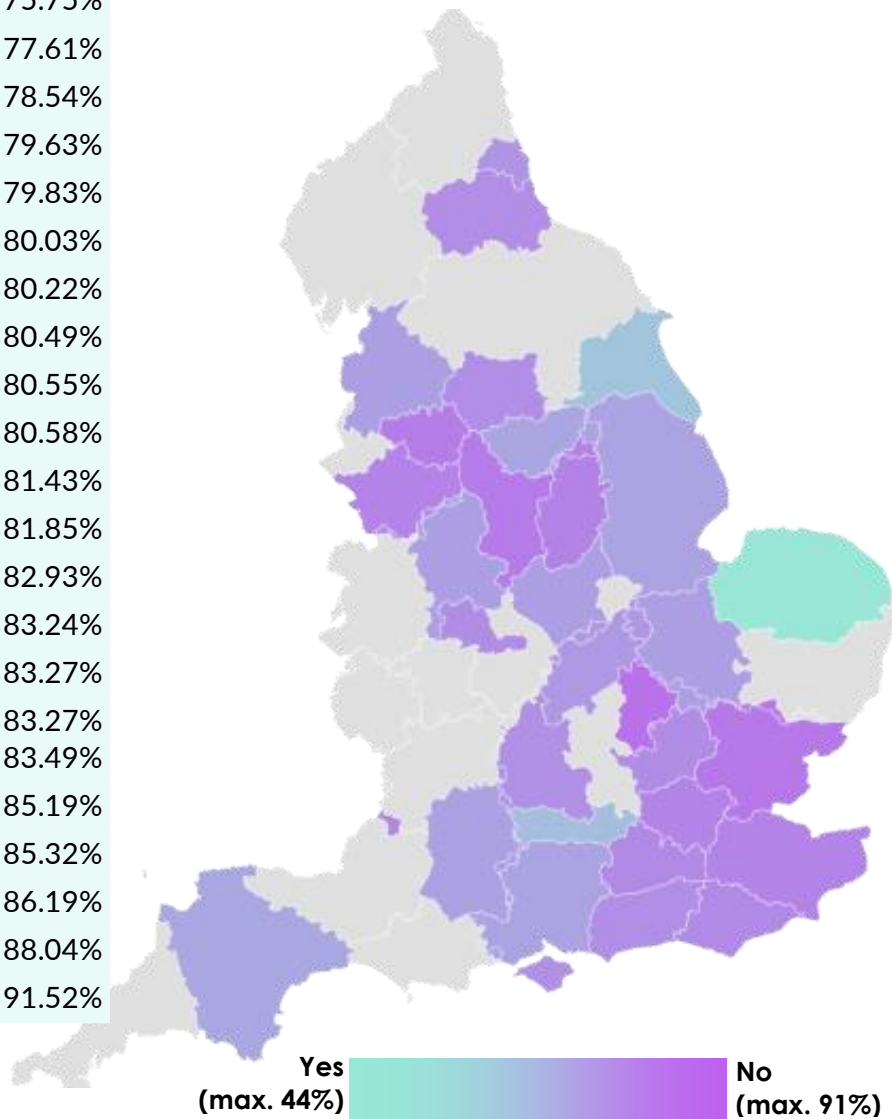
	Yes	No
Devon	73.08%	26.92%
Cardiff*	72.22%	27.78%
Cumbria	58.02%	41.98%
South Yorkshire	47.53%	52.47%
Surrey	40.00%	60.00%
Suffolk	37.21%	62.79%
West Yorkshire	36.70%	63.30%
Staffordshire	32.20%	67.80%
Greater London	31.78%	68.22%
Lancashire*	31.58%	68.42%
Hampshire	30.77%	69.23%
Essex	30.40%	69.60%
West Midlands	30.10%	69.90%
London	29.86%	70.14%
Berkshire	28.55%	71.45%
Lincolnshire	28.35%	71.65%
Merseyside	26.29%	73.71%
Kent	25.60%	74.40%
Gloucestershire*	25.00%	75.00%
Leicestershire	22.84%	77.16%
Cheshire	22.50%	77.50%
Norfolk	21.43%	78.57%
Northamptonshire	17.89%	82.11%
Oxfordshire	12.00%	88.00%
Hertfordshire	1.27%	98.73%





Secondary, 16+ & College:
"Was COP26 successful?"

	Yes	No
Worcestershire*	100.00%	0.00%
Norfolk	44.44%	55.56%
Dorset*	37.50%	62.50%
East Riding of Yorkshire	34.67%	65.33%
Berkshire	33.09%	66.91%
Devon	27.00%	73.00%
South Yorkshire	26.24%	73.76%
Hampshire	25.50%	74.50%
Lincolnshire	25.45%	74.55%
Wiltshire	25.06%	74.94%
Cambridgeshire	24.44%	75.56%
Lancashire	24.33%	75.67%
Staffordshire	24.31%	75.69%
Leicestershire	24.25%	75.75%
Northamptonshire	22.39%	77.61%
Tyne and Wear	21.46%	78.54%
Oxfordshire	20.37%	79.63%
Isle of Wight	20.17%	79.83%
West Yorkshire	19.97%	80.03%
West Sussex	19.78%	80.22%
Durham	19.51%	80.49%
West Midlands	19.45%	80.55%
Hertfordshire	19.42%	80.58%
East Sussex	18.57%	81.43%
Surrey	18.15%	81.85%
London	17.07%	82.93%
Bristol	16.76%	83.24%
Cheshire	16.73%	83.27%
Kent	16.73%	83.27%
Nottinghamshire	16.51%	83.49%
Greater Manchester	14.81%	85.19%
Derbyshire	14.68%	85.32%
Essex	13.81%	86.19%
Bedfordshire	11.96%	88.04%
North Yorkshire	8.48%	91.52%



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Voter Comments - Primary KS1: "Do we look after the planet?" & Primary KS2: "Was COP26 successful?"

"It was a **good start**, but these things **take time**, we can **all** make a **difference** by our **actions** rather than **words**."

Primary School, Surrey

"It was a success because it brought **leaders together** and made people **discuss** it."

Primary School, Suffolk

"Yes, because the success is that by **2030 deforestation** will **end**."

Primary School, Lincolnshire

"If **big** countries are **still** burning and using **fossil fuels**, this still **massively** impact our **planet**."

Primary School, Lincolnshire

No, because there are too many things happening like **animals dying**, **global warming** and **flooding** but people are still **not agreeing**. We need to step up and this is something that we need to **fix**."

Primary School, Buckinghamshire

"I think that it wasn't a success because all the leaders will **not** keep on doing what they **agreed** to, and the Cop 26 was full of **pollution** by people **flying** there."

Primary School, Buckinghamshire

"I don't think Cop 26 was that successful because some people are **still protesting** everywhere and saying that Cop 26 **didn't do that much** as people **thought** it would've so in my opinion, I don't think it was that successful."

Primary School, Northamptonshire



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"No because it needs to **change now not in 2030 or 2040.**"

Primary School, Suffolk

"I think that there is **too much waiting** now and we **don't** have **time** to wait!"

Primary School, Berkshire

Voter Comments – "Was COP26 successful?"

"If we did not have COP26 we would not have made **any progress** at all towards **saving** the **planet**. **Some** progress is better than **no** progress."

Secondary School, Lincolnshire

"The controversy regarding "phase down" and "phase out" is **understandable**, but phase down **still** means we are going in the **right direction**."

Secondary School, Greater Manchester

"I don't think that Cop 26 was entirely successful as lots of the changes they are aiming to make, **will not be reached** until about **10 more years**. However, I do think it is a **step** in the **right direction** and we are **making progress**."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"COP26 wasn't as successful as it **could be**, there seemed to be **little concern** for the **animals** and **their environment** in these agreements."

Secondary School, Surrey

"It's really bad that most world leaders flew to Glasgow and all the carbon emission that are released from this process."

Secondary School, Kent



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“**More can be done**, and it can be done **better** and more **quickly**. People need to **stop** putting **money before lives**.”

Secondary School, Surrey

“It was horrible we did not manage to stop at **1.5 degrees** we are now at **1.8 degrees** we need **change now** and I mean it.”

Secondary School, Lancashire

“I’m glad we are talking about this; all the leaders say “oh well we’ll hit **0 carbon emissions** by **2050**” but they probably **won’t even** be able to do it by **2100**. It was a failure, and it **wasn’t successful**.”

Secondary School, Lancashire

“If we do not **fix this issue** everyone will feel the **catastrophic consequences of global warming**. Even if it does not **directly affect world leaders** and other well - off people in developed countries, many people’s lives - **in less developed countries** for example - will be **dramatically changed**. People in our generation and **future generations** will be the **most affected**. So, I think people in power need **more empathy** for these people.”

College, Bristol



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