

Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?

Primary KS2: "Do people buy too much food at Christmas?"

10th – 17th December 2021



76.89%

of Primary KS2
voters said Yes.



64.58%

of Secondary
voters said Yes.



77.60%

of 16+ & College
voters said Yes.

In our final VoteTopic of 2021, voters got festive by exploring different traditions from around the world, before finding out about the amount of food we buy at Christmas here in the UK. They then discovered how much goes to waste and got the chance to reflect on what they could do to tackle this in their own households.

22,363 young people in the UK took part in this vote, having their say on: "Do people buy too much food at Christmas?" in KS2, and "Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?" in Secondary & Colleges.

Sample of 22,363 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 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 we have too much food at Christmas?"

Question Primary KS2:

"Do people buy too much food at Christmas?"

Question Secondary:

"Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"

Question 16+ & College:

"Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"



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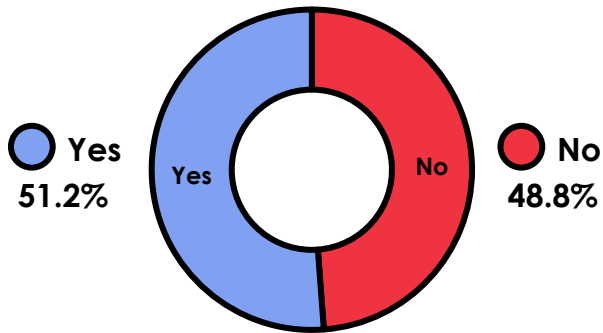


Grand Total

Primary KS1:

"Do we have too much food at Christmas?"

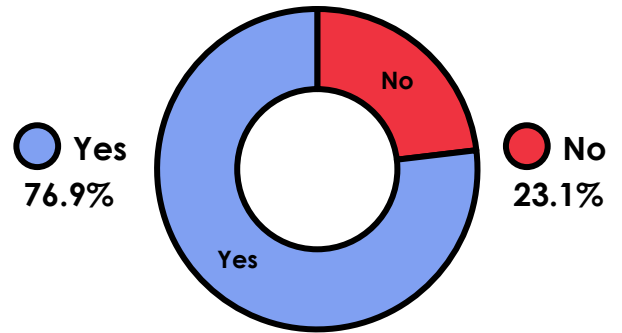
Yes 51.19%
No 48.81%



Primary KS2:

"Do people buy too much food at Christmas?"

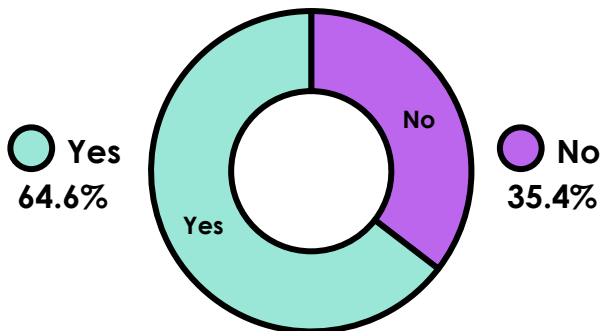
Yes 76.89%
No 23.11%



Secondary:

"Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"

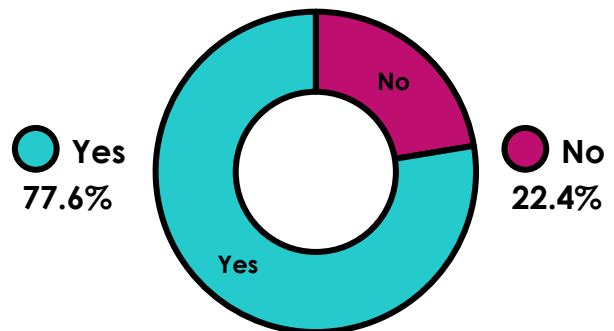
Yes 64.58%
No 35.42%



16+ & College:

"Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"

Yes 77.60%
No 22.40%



Gender

Primary KS1: "Do we have too much food at Christmas?"

	Yes	No
Female	50.43%	49.57%
Male	51.17%	48.83%
Diverse*	61.90%	38.10%

Primary KS2: "Do people buy too much food at Christmas?"

	Yes	No
Female	81.09%	18.91%
Male	73.14%	26.86%
Diverse*	71.52%	28.48%



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Secondary: "Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"

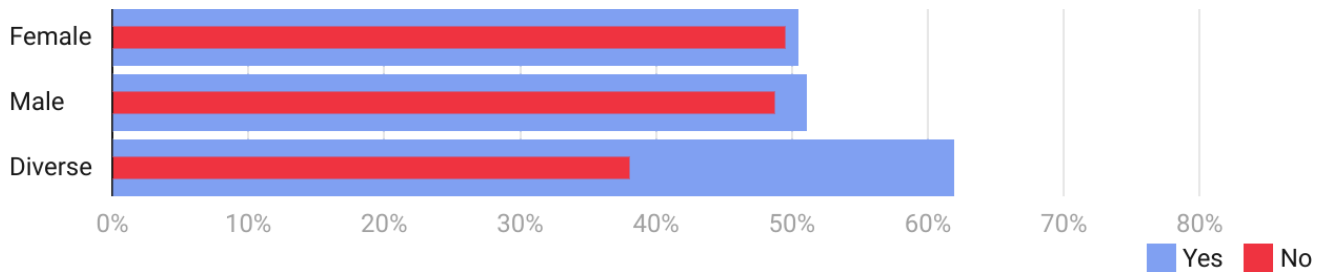
	Yes	No
Female	68.02%	31.98%
Male	61.43%	38.57%
Diverse*	63.62%	36.38%

16+ & College: "Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"

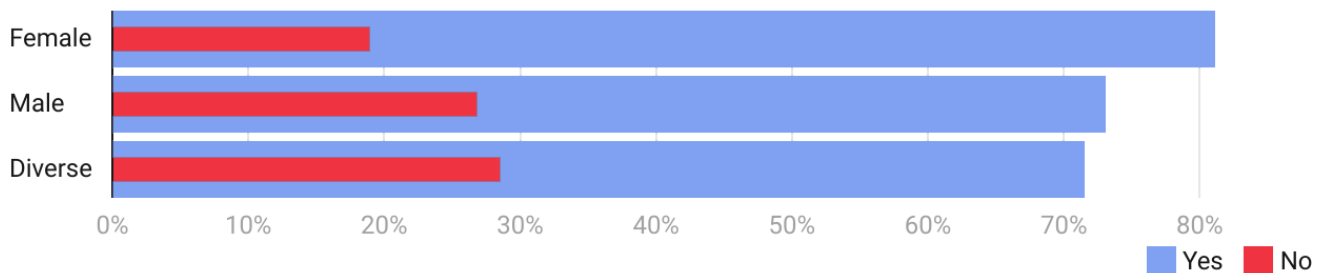
	Yes	No
Female	83.61%	16.39%
Male	71.79%	28.21%
Diverse*	68.57%	31.43%

*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.

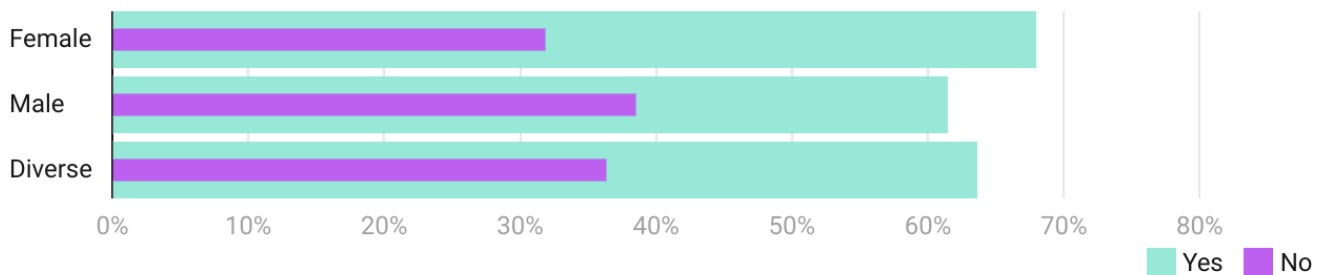
Primary KS1: "Do we have too much food at Christmas?"



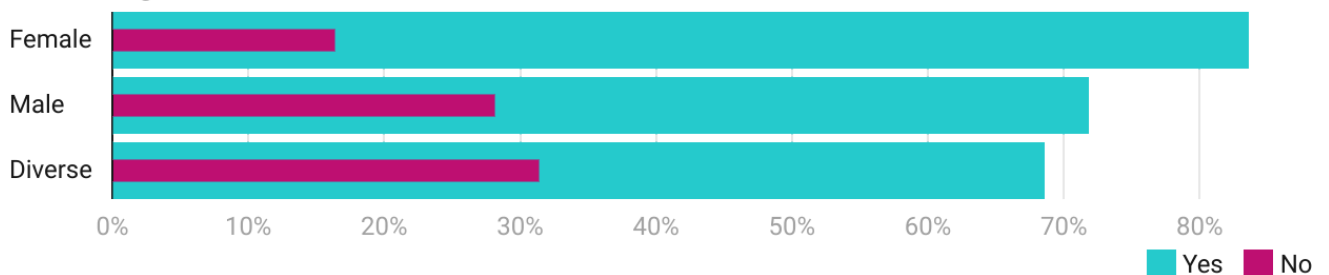
Primary KS2: "Do people buy too much food at Christmas?"



Secondary: "Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"



16+ & College: "Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"



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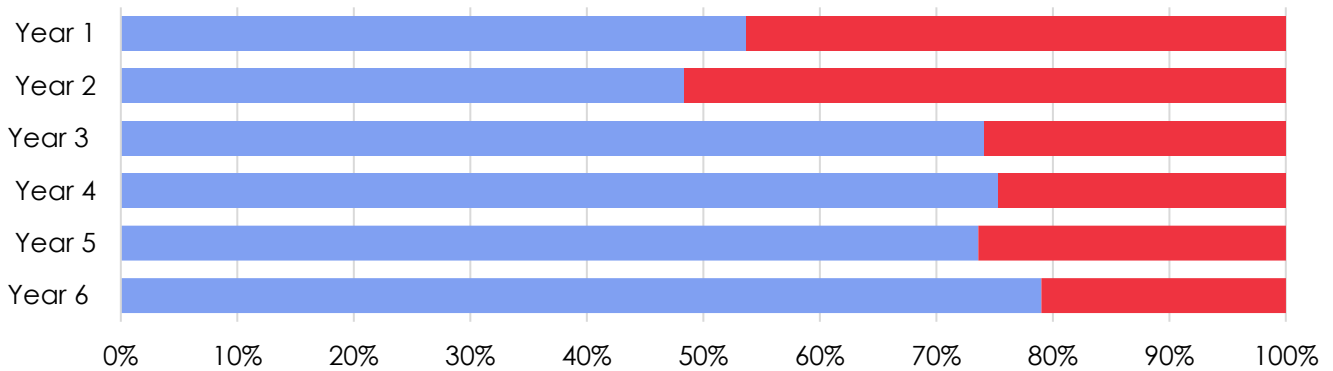
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Age

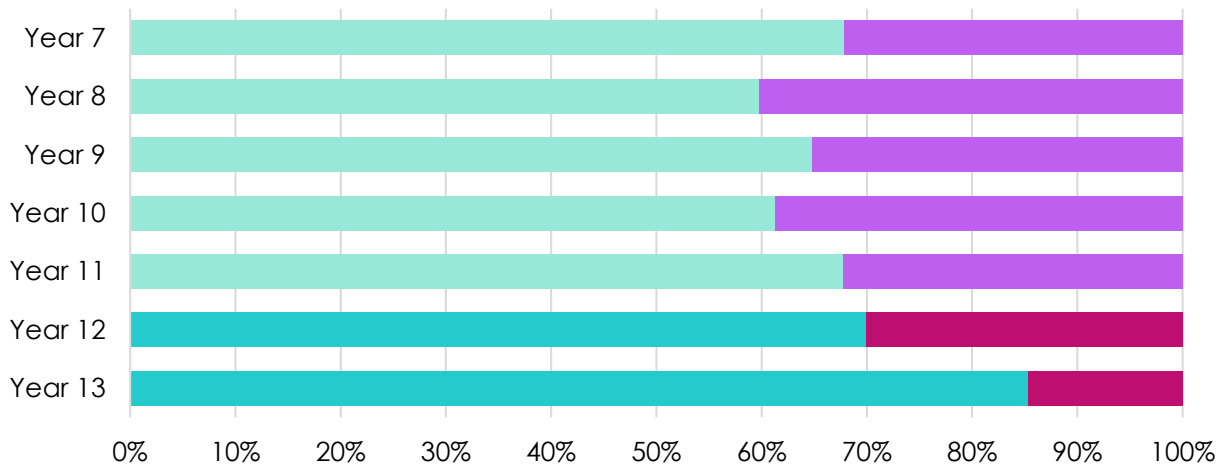
Primary KS1: "Do we have too much food at Christmas?" & Primary KS2: "Do people buy too much food at Christmas?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 1	53.72%	46.28%
Year 2	48.39%	51.61%
Year 3	74.08%	25.92%
Year 4	75.36%	24.64%
Year 5	73.60%	26.40%
Year 6	79.01%	20.99%
Vertical Tutor Group	66.67%	33.33%



Secondary, 16+ & College: "Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"

Year Group	Yes	No
Year 7	67.84%	32.16%
Year 8	59.76%	40.24%
Year 9	64.82%	35.18%
Year 10	61.26%	38.74%
Year 11	67.76%	32.24%
Year 12	69.88%	30.12%
Year 13	85.35%	14.65%
Vertical Tutor Group	71.97%	28.03%



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Location

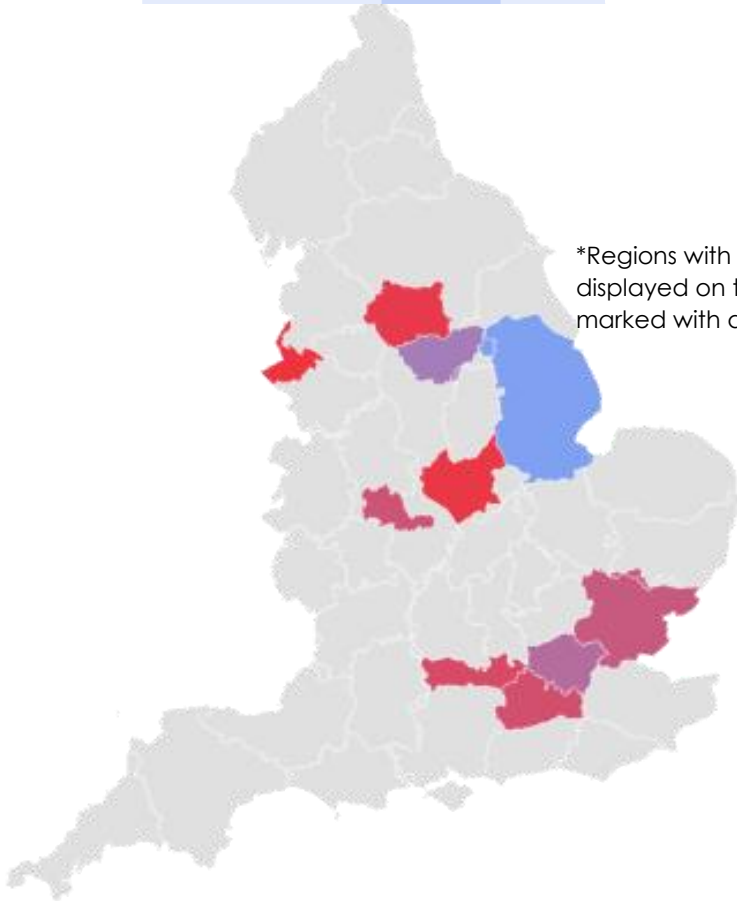
Primary KS1: "Do we have too much food at Christmas?"

	Yes	No
Northamptonshire*	100.00%	0.00%
Nottinghamshire*	100.00%	0.00%
Lincolnshire	80.95%	19.05%
South Yorkshire	66.67%	33.33%
Greater London	62.75%	37.25%
London	57.66%	42.34%
Essex	52.19%	47.81%
West Midlands	49.54%	50.46%
Surrey	47.83%	52.17%
Berkshire	45.61%	54.39%
West Yorkshire	39.39%	60.61%
Leicestershire	38.24%	61.76%
Merseyside	36.36%	63.64%

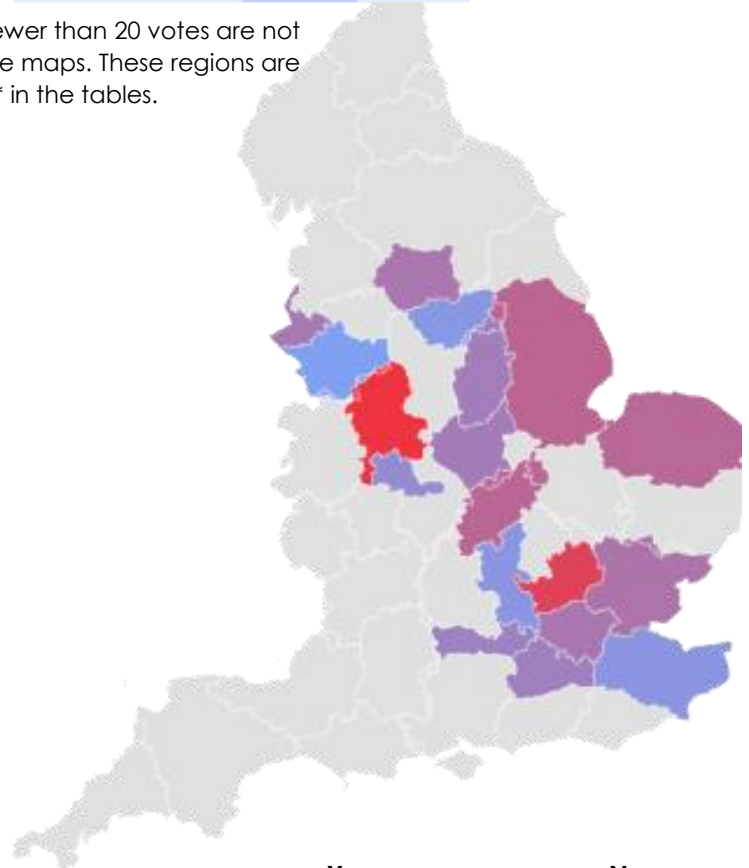
Primary KS2: "Do people buy too much food at Christmas?"

	Yes	No
Cheshire	90.32%	9.68%
South Yorkshire	87.21%	12.79%
Buckinghamshire	86.36%	13.64%
Kent	86.36%	13.64%
Greater London	84.98%	15.02%
West Midlands	82.81%	17.19%
Berkshire	79.45%	20.55%
Surrey	78.57%	21.43%
Nottinghamshire	77.61%	22.39%
Leicestershire	77.22%	22.78%
Merseyside	76.60%	23.40%
West Yorkshire	75.09%	24.91%
Essex	73.94%	26.06%
London	70.29%	29.71%
Norfolk	70.00%	30.00%
Northamptonshire	69.39%	30.61%
Lincolnshire	68.45%	31.55%
Hertfordshire	55.56%	44.44%
Staffordshire	50.00%	50.00%

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



Yes (max.81%) No (max.64%)



Yes (max.90%) No (max.50%)



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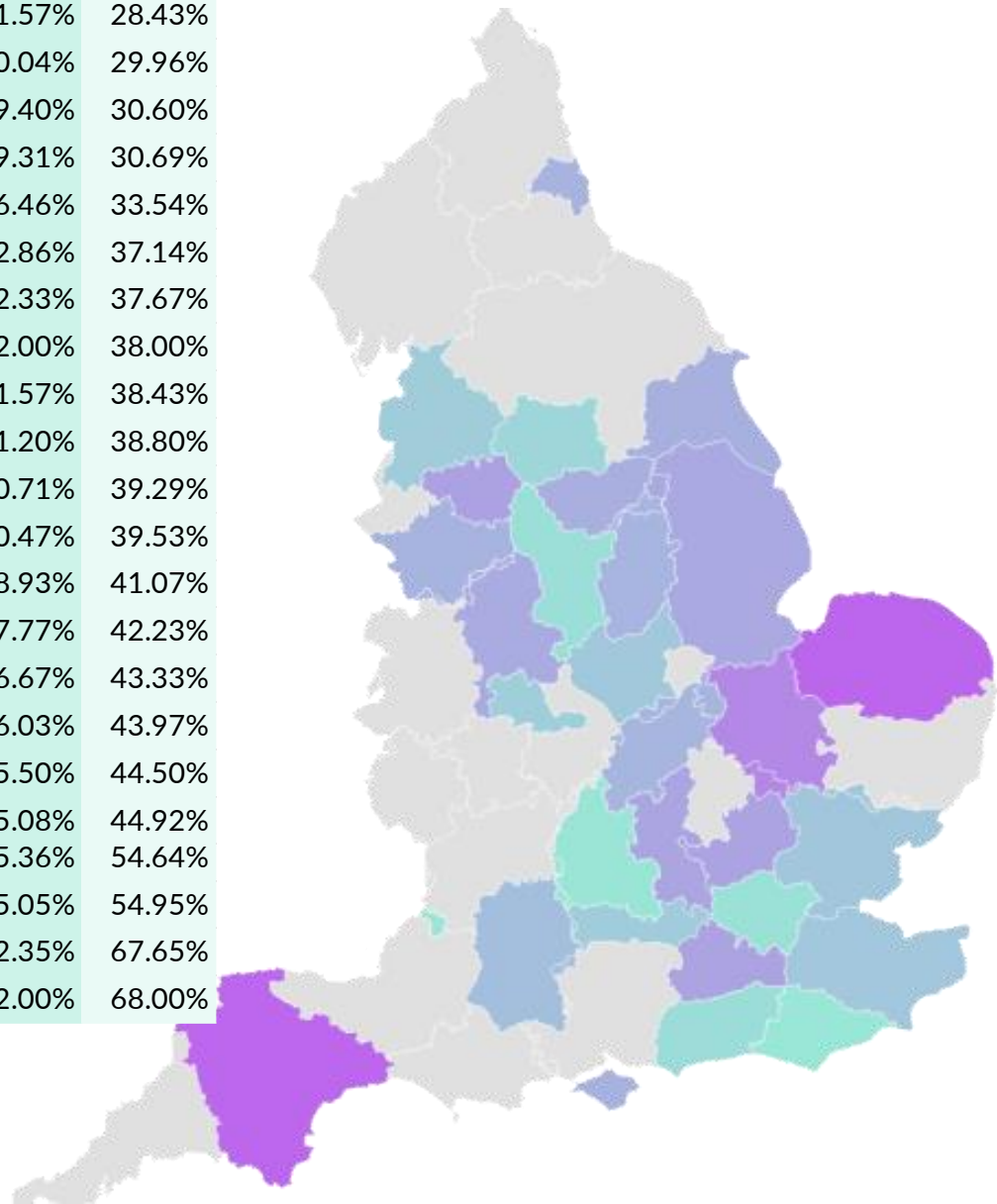


Be heard.



Secondary, 16+ & College: "Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?"

	Yes	No
Hampshire*	82.35%	17.65%
East Sussex	81.82%	18.18%
Bristol	81.32%	18.68%
Oxfordshire	80.90%	19.10%
London	79.36%	20.64%
Derbyshire	78.72%	21.28%
West Sussex	78.13%	21.88%
West Yorkshire	75.17%	24.83%
West Midlands	72.35%	27.65%
Lancashire	71.87%	28.13%
Berkshire	71.57%	28.43%
Leicestershire	70.04%	29.96%
Essex	69.40%	30.60%
Kent	69.31%	30.69%
Wiltshire	66.46%	33.54%
Northamptonshire	62.86%	37.14%
Nottinghamshire	62.33%	37.67%
Cheshire	62.00%	38.00%
Tyne and Wear	61.57%	38.43%
Isle of Wight	61.20%	38.80%
East Riding of Yorkshire	60.71%	39.29%
South Yorkshire	60.47%	39.53%
Staffordshire	58.93%	41.07%
Lincolnshire	57.77%	42.23%
Buckinghamshire	56.67%	43.33%
Surrey	56.03%	43.97%
Hertfordshire	55.50%	44.50%
Greater Manchester	55.08%	44.92%
North Yorkshire	45.36%	54.64%
Cambridgeshire	45.05%	54.95%
Devon	32.35%	67.65%
Norfolk	32.00%	68.00%



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Yes
(max. 82%)



No
(max. 68%)



Voter Comments - Primary KS1: "Do we have too much food at Christmas" & Primary KS2: "Do people buy too much food at Christmas?"

"I was shocked by how much food is wasted at Christmas. It is a shame when we waste food when so many people **live on the streets** with **nothing to eat**. We should stop wasting food."

Primary School, West Midlands

"We do buy too much food at Christmas because after Christmas there is **a lot of wasted food**. A lot of people **get together** and **eat too much**."

Primary School, Berkshire

"I think we buy too much food at Christmas because **people buy stuff** then they **don't eat it** and I think the bin men throw the **trash** in the **sea** and it **hurts the environment**."

Primary School, Nottinghamshire

"We don't always **eat all** of the **food** we are **given**. We could give some of our food to **homeless people** who **don't** have a **Christmas dinner**."

Primary School, West Midlands

"We don't think people waste food because each year **a lot of people** gather around at Christmas which means you need **more food**, so **everyone** gets fed. Even if we have more leftovers, we can still eat it **after Christmas** as it won't go **mouldy straight after**."

Primary School, Essex

"Sometimes people buy too much food, but if they do, they can give it to **homeless people**, **a food drive**, they can **reuse** their waste, make a type of soup and eat it the next day."

Primary School, Essex



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Voter Comments – Secondary, 16+ & College: “Does the UK waste too much food at Christmas?”

"People should **stop** making **more food** than they can **eat**. If you are going to make too much food, save it and eat it the next day. Don't waste. You could **give your leftovers** to **homeless people** or **offer** them to a **relative**."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"I love Christmas, but we do all buy far too much food for what we **really need!** After all, is it really the food or who you **share it with that matters?**"

Secondary School, Berkshire

"Lots of food is **wasted** throughout the entire Christmas period. We get **drawn** into **buying** things that we **don't really need** and are full from Christmas dinner. We end up eating leftovers for **ages** afterwards."

Secondary School, South Yorkshire

"We throw away things other people **desperately need**. Instead of throwing your unfinished Christmas Dinner away, **keep it** in the **fridge** as leftovers."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"Although we **enjoy** it a lot and probably wouldn't any other way, there is a lot **more waste** at Christmas, especially **adding up across the country**."

Secondary School, West Midlands

"Christmas is a time for **giving** and **giving back**. Why can't we give food to the **homeless** or **food banks** rather than **wasting food** that can be **beneficial** for **someone else?**"

Secondary School, Kent



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We don't **waste** any **more** food at Christmas than we do at **any other time during the year.**"

Secondary School, West Sussex

"No, because its **Christmas** and you can't have **too much** at Christmas, right?"

Secondary School, North Yorkshire

"We waste food **every day**. It doesn't matter if we waste it On Christmas day. it doesn't make any **difference.**"

Secondary School, Bristol

"We don't waste too much food because Christmas is a time where people actually **use their leftovers** and it's part of the **traditions** around Christmas."

Secondary School, West Yorkshire



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