

# ARE HONOURS STILL RELEVANT?

*Sir* David Beckham recently received a knighthood for his work in sport and charity, as part of King Charles's birthday honours. He called it his "proudest moment" and when Sky News asked their readers whether he deserved the honour, 83% voted Yes. This made us curious to find out how young people feel about the honours system, and whether they place a similar value on these accolades. We asked them to consider whether knighthoods and other royal awards are the ultimate achievement or an outdated system in need of reform. You can find out what close to 60,000 of them had to say in this report.

*Melanie*  
Data Manager



## 59,851

TOTAL VOTES

## 12,723

VOTES AGE 5-11

## 47,128

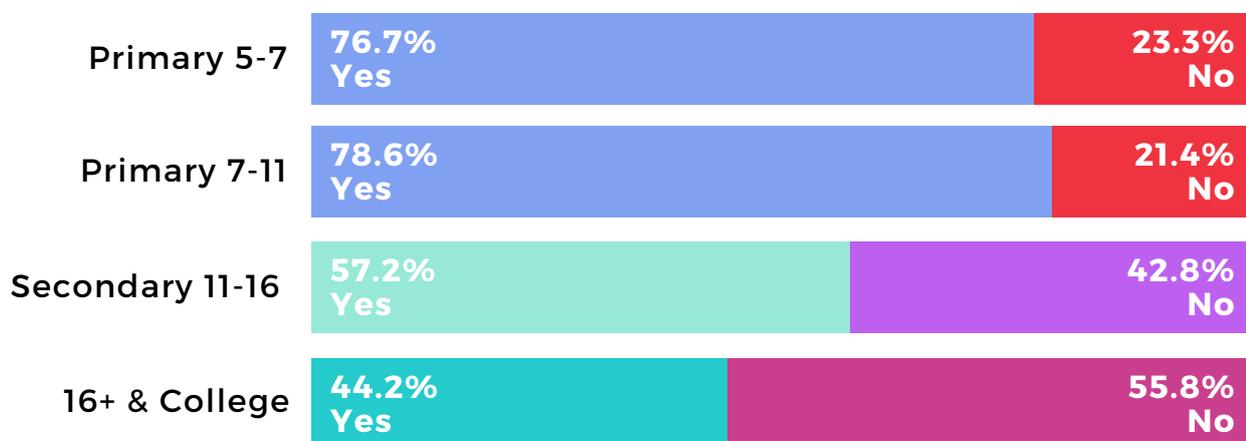
VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions, discussed amongst the different age groups:

**Primary 5-7:** "Should there still be knights?"

**Primary 7-11:** "Should people still be given knighthoods?"

**Secondary 11-16, 16+ & College:** "Are honours still relevant?"



Please contact [info@votesforschools.com](mailto:info@votesforschools.com) to find out more about the data relating to this VoteTopic.

## ARE HONOURS STILL RELEVANT?

The majority of students were in favour of the honours system, and felt strongly that people should be recognised for their achievements and charitable contributions to society. However, many felt that despite this, they are still in great need of reform to ensure they represent everyone and reflect the feelings of the British public.

One of the main criticisms was directed at the people chosen for the honours; oftentimes, they have an abundance of wealth or “celebrity” status which led some students to conclude that the accolades favour those with significant privilege. Calls to award more of the general public were a common theme and some young people argued that a public vote to determine recipients could ensure fairness and proper representation.

Those who fell particularly firmly in the No camp felt that the system was outdated and didn’t interest them. This belief was mostly found amongst No voters at Secondary age and above; the vote showed a downward trend as age increased, with 5-11-year olds feeling the most positivity towards the awards and 16+ & College voters displaying the most cynicism.

### Primary Yes Voter

*It is a national tradition and people should be recognised for their achievements, it would be good if we carry this on for the future generations.*

### Primary No Voter

*No, it's not fair as not everyone who tries hard can be in the running to get one - especially young people.*

### Secondary Yes Voter

*As this is fairly unique to the UK, [it] represents our national identity and is an important way to recognise the achievements of individuals, [and] create a national remembrance of accomplishments.*

### Secondary No Voter

*It can seem like a show off for only the elite of our society - many people would love the time to give back the way the rich and famous can, but don't have the freedom of money to allow them to.*

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