

DO YOU THINK DISABLED PEOPLE'S STORIES ARE HEARD?



To mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), young people discussed the importance of representation and listening to the experiences of Disabled people. The lessons explored examples of representation in popular culture, such as the role of Nessarose in *Wicked* and the actor who plays her, Marissa Bode. While her character is a wheelchair user, Bode is the first Disabled actor to be cast in the role since the stage show launched in 2003. Students learned about the importance of informed representation, particularly through the use of Disabled People's Organisations, before debating whether Disabled people's stories are visible, well-told and prominent enough. Thank you to Disability Rights UK for their input with this topic's lessons.

Melanie
Data Manager



53,756

TOTAL VOTES

10,841

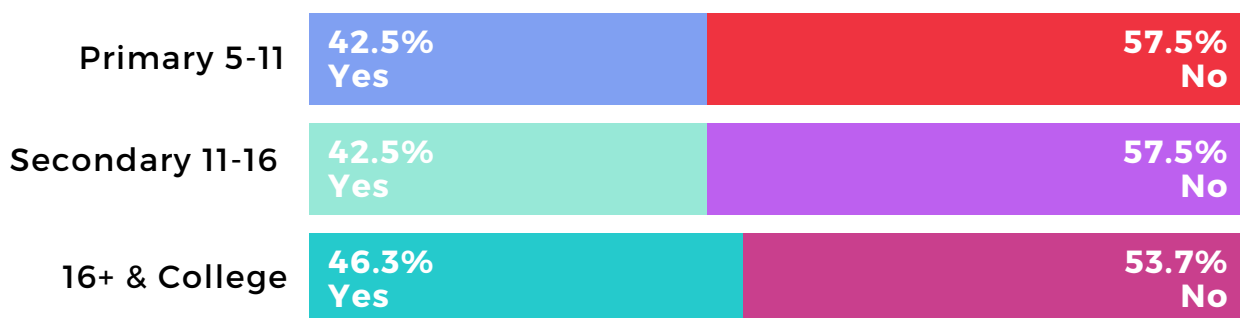
VOTES AGE 5-11

42,915

VOTES AGE 11-18+

The VoteTopic question discussed amongst the different age groups was:

Primary 5-11, Secondary 11-16, 16+ & College: "Do you think Disabled people's stories are heard?"





DO YOU THINK DISABLED PEOPLE'S STORIES ARE HEARD?

Students were split across all age groups on whether Disabled people's stories are heard, with a little over half voting 'No'. A common complaint was about potential gaps in representation, as young people believe it is currently limited to Disabled celebrities. Many called for a spotlight on the stories of everyday people who don't already have a platform.

The rise of social media divided voters over whether it has had a mainly positive or negative impact on disability awareness. For some, it enabled Disabled people to share their stories in their own way, however others highlighted the dangers it can pose due to its lack of safeguarding against online bullying and abuse.

Some 'No' voters believed that Disabled people's stories aren't being heard, not because representation doesn't exist, but because people outside the community aren't engaging with them enough. The Paralympics was repeatedly used as a brilliant example of informed representation, particularly by Secondary students.

I think that Disabled people's stories are being told a lot more than they used to be and they are represented in TV programmes and films more. Some Disabled people may not want to share their stories.

I don't think all Disabled people's stories are heard, only celebrities or popular people's stories are heard, whereas children should have the chance to speak out to the world.

Social media helps Disabled people to have more of a voice, but it also opens the door to potential bullying online.

Their stories are not heard enough. We need to hear from them not other people telling their stories.

Please contact info@votesforschools.com to find out more about the data relating to this VoteTopic.