

WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ MORE?

As 2026 is the National Year of Reading, we wanted to ask young people for their thoughts on the activity, and whether it's something they'd like to prioritise more over the coming year. The campaign is asking everyone to "Go all in", with the Government also pledging £1,400 to all Secondary schools in England for libraries to buy more books for students. Despite this push, recent research conducted by the National Literacy Trust found that only 1 in 5 young people read something daily in their free time. It also found that around 1 in 10 young people don't have a book at home. Given these findings, we were interested to hear young people's thoughts on this Government-backed campaign and whether they would like to develop the habit of reading more regularly.

Melanie
Data Manager



55,232

TOTAL VOTES

11,019

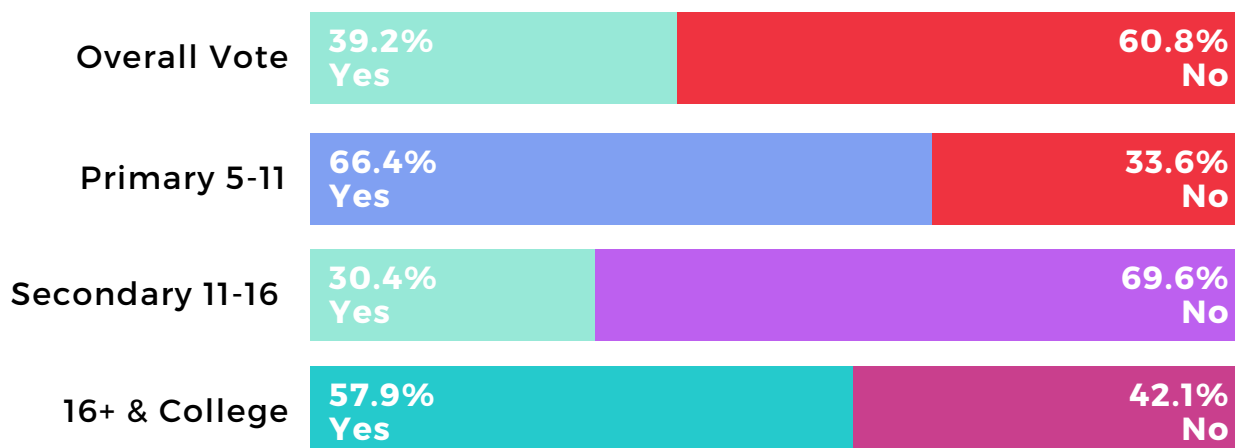
VOTES AGE 5-11

44,213

VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic question, discussed by all age groups was:

Primary 5-11, Secondary 11-16, 16+ & College: "Would you like to read more?"



WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ MORE?

The majority of young people said they wouldn't like to read more, and this sentiment was reflected in the arguments shared with us. One of the most common reasons was that they don't feel there is time to read around their other responsibilities and priorities, such as homework, school and sports. One voter said that they wouldn't have time to sleep if they added reading to their schedule.

Other common arguments included the belief that reading is boring, particularly because they are often forced to read at school and aren't able to choose their reading material. Some voters suggested time in school to read a book of their own choosing could help motivate them to read more.

Some students said they read enough already and enjoy doing so, meaning they voted 'No' to the question, despite their love of the activity. For those who voted 'Yes', many highlighted the benefits of reading, such as improving vocabulary, writing skills, imagination and focus.

Primary Yes Voter

Yes, I would love to read more as it's an amazing opportunity to learn more and build a huge imagination.

Primary No Voter

Reading can make my mind fill up too much, so I don't read too often.

Secondary Yes Voter

Its about having time - forced reading stuff in school which we don't like. Reading Plus which doesn't always interest us. Would like time to read whatever we want.

Secondary No Voter

I do lots of sports outside of school and I can't fit reading in. I won't have time to sleep if I read too. I'd rather do sports than read.

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