

IS GLOBAL POLITICS RELEVANT TO YOU?



Over recent weeks, global events have dominated the news, with flurries of concerning stories making headlines from Venezuela to Switzerland to the Middle East. Not ones to shy away from tackling these topics, we asked our voters to reflect on their interest in international news and whether global events feel relevant to their everyday lives. The results offer a timely snapshot of how pupils are engaging with the world beyond their immediate communities.

Results from a VoteTopic we released in September found that 1 in 4 Secondary students didn't keep up with the headlines over summer 2025, however just over half (56%) said that global politics feels relevant to them in January 2026. This could show a shifting interest as the year progresses, but it could also highlight their growing reliance on social media apps such as TikTok for their headlines, as many who voted 'No' in September clarified that it was more traditional news outlets that they didn't keep up with, rather than the news itself.

Melanie
Data Manager



67,108

TOTAL VOTES

13,208

VOTES AGE 5-11

53,900

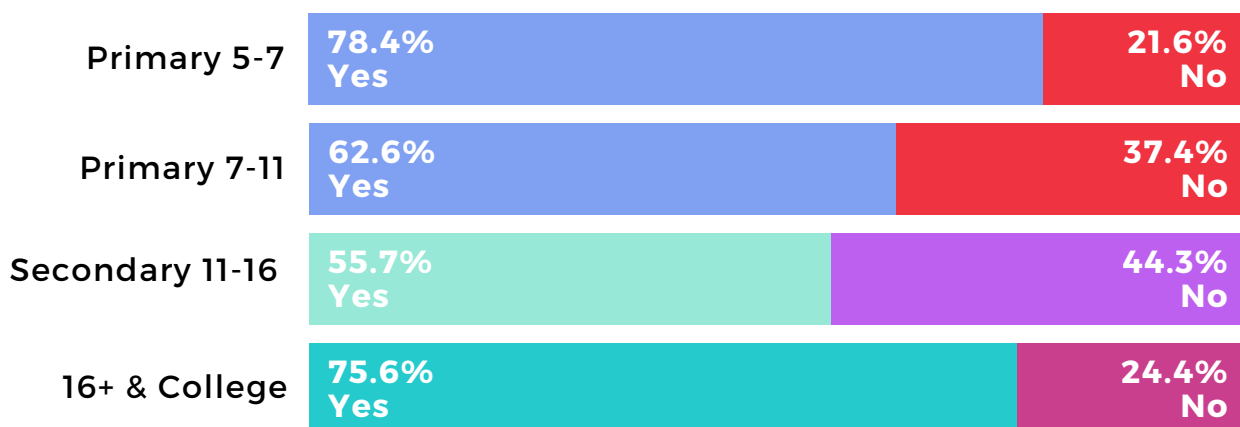
VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic question discussed amongst the different age groups was:

Primary 5-7: "Are you interested in news from other countries?"

Primary 7-11: "Are you interested in world news?"

Secondary 11-16, 16+ & College: "Is global politics relevant to you?"





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Young people, particularly aged 11+, demonstrated a keen enthusiasm for this topic and many shared thoughtful, nuanced arguments that added depth to the results. All age groups voted 'Yes' in the majority, sharing that they are interested in world news and that global politics feels relevant to them.

Some Secondary students stressed that local and national news is more immediately relevant, however others challenged that being informed about the wider world can help inform their decision-making, particularly with regards to voting.

Primary pupils agreed that having a general understanding of world news can help inform their learning elsewhere, however this was more focused on school subjects than voting. Some Primary voters said they found world news boring or scary and felt that it wasn't suitable for their age group. There was some agreement on this from Secondary students, with claims that younger students shouldn't be exposed to international news stories with potentially distressing content.

It is clear from these results that young people want to engage with news from around the world and feel informed before they make big decisions, such as who to vote for in an election.

Yes, I am interested in world news because just because you live in a different country doesn't mean you can't find out about what is happening in other places.

Why should we bother with world news when we should concentrate on our country's news? Why do we have to learn about other people's news?

Global politics is like the foundation of a house, if there is no foundation the house will crumble. It is relevant to us as one day we are going to be able to vote and need to understand what is going on in the world.

I don't want to always worry about global politics unless it is definitely going to impact me. Otherwise you live in a constant state of stress.