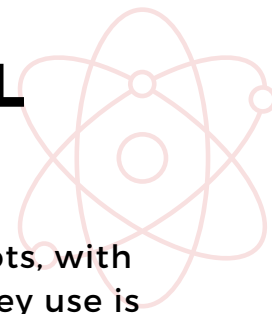


WOULD YOU TRUST EMOTIONAL ADVICE FROM AI?



In a recent study, 81% of 11-16-year olds said they use AI chatbots, with almost one third of those who do saying they feel like the bot they use is one of their friends. Interestingly, a recent VotesforSchools vote on parasocial relationships, in which close to 48,000 students participated, presented a different outcome. The same age group (11-16) recognised the dangers of parasocial relationships and didn't believe they were the 'new normal'. For Safer Internet Day, we wanted to delve deeper into the relationships young people are developing with chatbots, so we asked them to consider the extent to which they are willing to rely on AI for advice and the potential impact this could have on their wellbeing. Over 52,000 young people responded.

Melanie
Data Manager



52,037

TOTAL VOTES

10,959

VOTES AGE 5-11

41,078

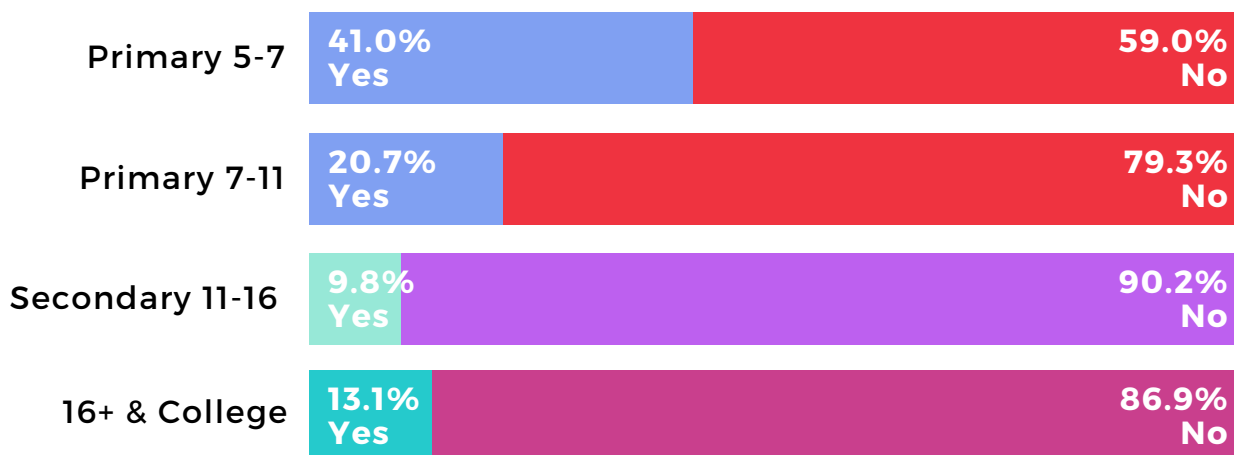
VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions, discussed amongst the different age groups:

Primary 5-7: "Should people use AI chatbots for advice?"

Primary 7-11: "Would you trust advice from AI chatbots?"

Secondary, 16+ & College: "Would you trust emotional advice from AI?"





WOULD YOU TRUST EMOTIONAL ADVICE FROM AI?

Young people don't believe AI chatbots should be used for advice, or emotional advice for those aged 11-16+. 86% of all voters said 'No', with one of the most common arguments being that AI is prone to giving incorrect, misleading or biased information. One Primary pupil who voted 'No' shared an example they had found in a newspaper from their school library, where AI had invented fake tourist spots.

For the majority of young people, AI can't replace human connection and many worried that trying to use it for this purpose could cause more problems than it solves. They stressed that AI isn't human and can't understand situations involving human feelings and interactions in the way that other people can.

For some, it was precisely this disconnect that made them feel more comfortable using chatbots than speaking to the people close to them. 'Yes' voters claimed they would or have asked AI for emotional advice because it isn't as intimidating as sharing their feelings with another person, though this came with the caveat from many voters that they would seek human advice as well.

I would trust advice if the situation is not complex.

Primary Yes Voter

I worry that because AI chatbots are made to sound like humans, we will lose human connections and it will replace relationships we have with each other.

Primary No Voter

I find it more approachable than a human, because I know I won't be judged.

Secondary Yes Voter

AI often fails to get basic facts right, so trusting it with your mental wellbeing is risky as it will give misinformation.

Secondary No Voter

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