

SHOULD EMPLOYERS HAVE TO WORK WITH SCHOOLS?



To mark National Careers Week in March, we asked young people to consider how prepared they feel for the future and whether they believe schools should dedicate more learning time to understanding different career pathways. Our youngest voters, aged 5-7, discussed whether they need to learn about a wide range of jobs in school, while 7-11-year olds explored career role models and whether there is a benefit to having more. Meanwhile, voters aged 11+ discussed employers and whether they should be obligated to work with schools to help prepare young people for the realities of employment. We also held Student Webinars, where schools from across the country joined to discuss questions posed by our VotesforSchools Youth Ambassadors on the topic of careers-based education (see page 3).

Melanie
Data Manager 

49,243

TOTAL VOTES

10,603

VOTES AGE 5-11

38,640

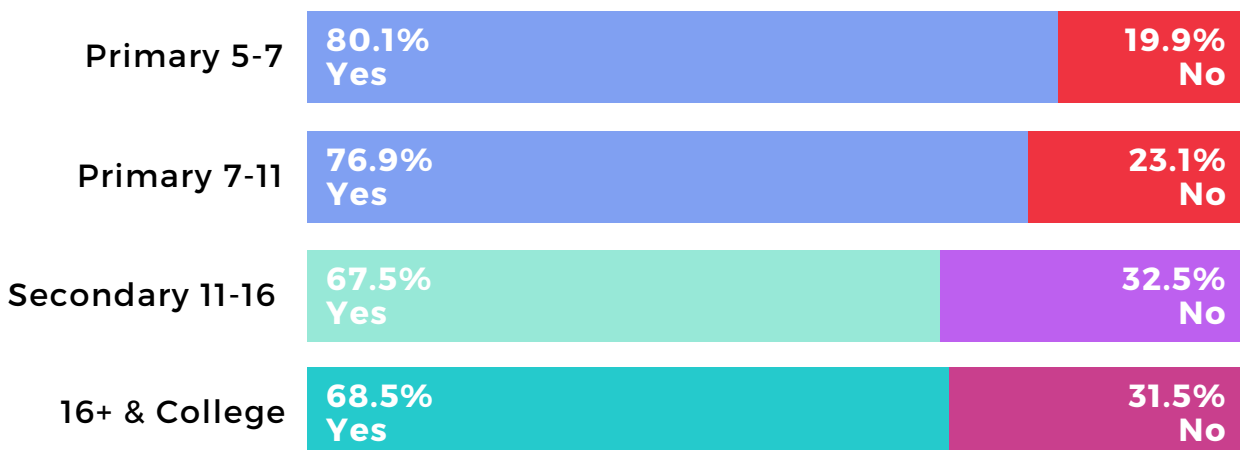
VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions, discussed amongst the different age groups:

Primary 5-7: “Do you want to learn more about different jobs?”

Primary 7-11: “Do we need more career role models?”

Secondary, 16+ & College: “Should employers have to work with schools?”



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Primary pupils had a largely favourable view, both in regards to learning more about different careers and having more career-based role models. Many said there was a need for inspiration and ideas to help guide future aspirations and this was made apparent for many in the lesson content; pupils discussed jobs they had not heard of before and expressed a desire to continue learning about different opportunities. Whilst 'No' voters were in the minority, many said that they would like to research jobs themselves and didn't want to be influenced by others. Others felt that this would be a more appropriate topic to learn about at Secondary school, where employment feels closer and more tangible.

Secondary and 16+ students largely felt that employers should work with schools more, however there were mixed feelings over whether this should be mandatory. Some worried that a compulsory service could negatively affect the operations of some businesses or lead to a lack of effort from those who don't want to take part. This could have increased the number of 'No' votes we received, even though it was clear that many saw the benefits of hearing from employers directly. Some thought educators were already well-placed to share this information, whereas others felt that employers could provide more realistic pictures of what different careers entail on a day-to-day basis.

I think there should be more career role models as we need more information about new careers. It gives us options and it gives us a back-up plan in life.

Primary Yes Voter

No, because you can be whatever you want, you don't need somebody to be a role model and influence your job choice.

Primary No Voter

If employers worked directly with schools, it would give students the chance to look at the world of employment in a more realistic way.

Secondary Yes Voter

We think it is important to hear from as many employers as possible to inspire us [but] we don't think that they should be forced to [...] if they don't want to or if it will impact their ability to run their business.

Secondary No Voter



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK: STUDENT WEBINAR RESULTS

Alongside our weekly debate, we held our termly Student Webinar which tackled the topic of careers education. Our Youth Ambassadors prepared a series of questions and schools from across the UK came together to discuss them and share how prepared they feel for life after education. Thank you to Beth Jones, Head of Careers at Gatsby Education, for taking part and to The Careers and Enterprise Company for posing a question for participants to discuss.

150 students took part, the majority (130) of which were Primary pupils.

130 responses

100%

**of Primary pupils
said they'd
rather learn
about jobs from
those doing
them**

14 responses

1/3

**of Secondary
students think
their school could
be doing more to
prepare them for
working life**

150 responses

69%

**of all students
believe learning
about the world
of work will help
them with their
future careers**

Whilst the majority of Secondary students felt their school was doing enough to prepare them for the world of work, around a third said they'd like them to do more. Some used positive examples such as discussions they've had in lessons across a range of subjects, and careers fairs with employers present. One group expressed disappointment that their school doesn't offer work experience.

“ *The people who do the jobs are the experts and they can give us clear and honest information.* ”

“ *We have careers days but it doesn't give us as much of an insight as work experience would.* ”



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK: STUDENT WEBINAR RESULTS

69%

of Primary pupils don't believe you need to know how to use AI to do a good job

106 responses

“ These topics should be talked about in PSHE so that we feel prepared for the future. We don't discuss taxes or how to save well. ”

“ It is not important as people did the jobs before AI, but it is important to be able to spot it to be able to keep yourself and others safe. ”

68%

of Secondary students feel confident managing their finances when they get a job

14 responses

66%

of Primary pupils believe more people should be able to work from home

106 responses

“ Yes, because it can be more convenient, especially for those that live far away. Some people may have a disability that prevents them from travelling far. ”

Overall, the results from the Webinars support the findings from our national VoteTopic results; young people see the benefits of learning about careers from those doing them. Secondary participants displayed a mostly confident attitude towards transitioning from education to employment; 73% said they were confident their current skillset would help them land a job. Despite this, some did identify potential setbacks. For example, one student was concerned that her desire to pursue engineering could be made difficult because of gender prejudice. Equally, some students echoed a common argument given by 'No' Primary voters on our weekly VoteTopic: it isn't appropriate to discuss careers until they are older.

The Webinars also delved deeper into how young people feel about recent changes to working environments. Primary participants were mostly in favour of home working but against relying on AI. They also discussed whether all careers should be accessible to everyone. 61% of Primary participants said that anyone should be able to start a business, and 77% of Secondary participants argued a career in the arts is valued at school just as much as the more traditionally academic pathways.

Please Note: Teachers responded to each poll by sharing what the majority of their class responded e.g. 'most said yes' or 'there was a mixed response'. These responses were weighted by the number of voters in each class.