

# DO WE TAKE LGBT+ RIGHTS FOR GRANTED IN THE UK?



*June* marks the start of Pride Month and the FIFA Men’s World Cup. The 2022 tournament sparked debate around LGBT+ rights in host nation, Qatar. This year has also seen some LGBT+ fan groups boycotting the tournament due to rollbacks of rights in host nations: the USA, Canada and Mexico. Pride gives a valuable opportunity to celebrate the LGBT+ community and a chance to reflect on their history and the rights they have fought hard to win. A 2023 YouGov poll found that over three quarters of Britons supported same-sex marriage and 77% said that Britain was a tolerant country for gay and lesbian people. However, in ILGA-Europe’s Rainbow Map index of LGBT+ rights, the UK has dropped from 1<sup>st</sup> place (in 2015) to to 22<sup>nd</sup> place in 2026. Often thought of as the most progressive demographic, we wanted to know how young people saw the state of LGBT+ rights in the UK.

*Alex*  
**Data Coordinator** 

**43,015**

**TOTAL VOTES**

**10,500**

**VOTES AGE 5-11**

**32,515**

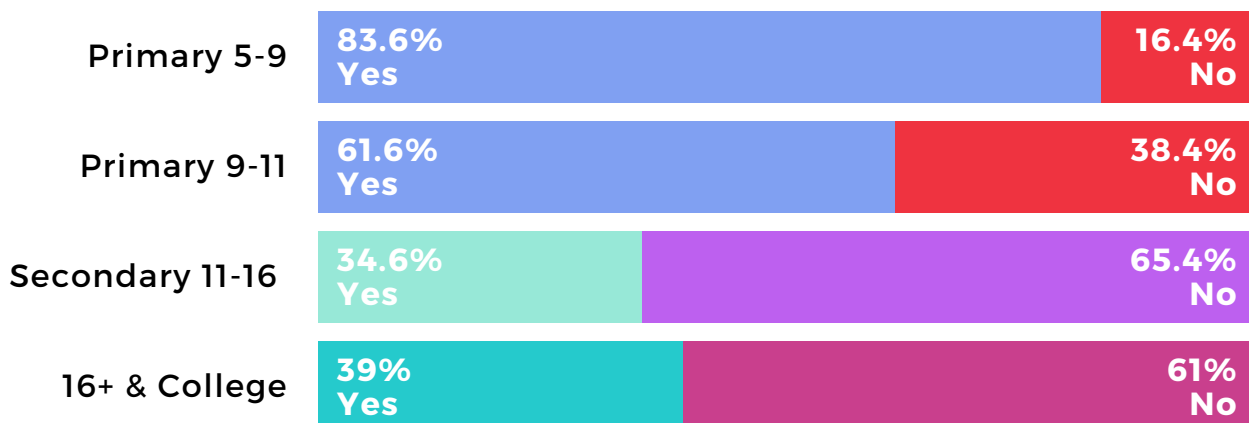
**VOTES AGE 11-16+**

The VoteTopic questions discussed amongst the different age groups were:

**Primary 5-9:** “Is it important to learn about everyone’s rights?”

**Primary 9-11:** “Do we value LGBT+ rights?”

**Secondary, 16+ & College:** “Do we take LGBT+ rights for granted in the UK?”



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A majority of younger voters found it interesting and important to learn about the rights of others, with some arguing that a knowledge of rights can help you stand up for others. “No” voters discussed how you should be kind and respectful to everyone without needing to know their rights. A common view amongst older Primary pupils was that the UK is generally in a good place for LGBT+ rights but that there is always more that can and should be done.

Many Secondary voters were shocked to hear about the UK’s drop from 1<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> place in Rainbow Map’s world LGBT+ rights tracker. Students thought that the UK should be following the example of other countries who are currently doing more for the LGBT+ community. Lots expressed the view that, while the UK is a progressive country and generally a good place for LGBT+ rights, there is still more progress to be made. Some voters shared concerns about current political trends in the UK and what they could mean for the LGBT+ community.

Voters on the whole expressed a feeling that people should be respected and allowed to live their lives regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Students at both Primary and Secondary reported having either experienced or witnessed homophobic behaviour first-hand.

*I think yes, because many support groups and organisation companies are trying really hard sure everyone is included and is happy.*

Primary ‘Yes’ Voter

*Though we do value LGBT+ rights, we are not safe enough for LGBT+ people [...] if there's one person scared to be LGBT+, that's too many [...]*

Primary ‘No’ Voter

*The surge in far right views and opinions of recent years is a worrying thing for LGBT+ rights. This is something we need to be mindful of.*

Secondary ‘Yes’ Voter

*We have a whole month celebrating LGBT+ and laws, so we are going in the right direction.*

Secondary ‘No’ Voter