

IS BRITAIN DIVIDED?



The National Conversation launched in May. Led by the Independent Commission for Community and Cohesion, this nationwide “listening exercise” aims to better understand what people value about their community life and what they might like it to look like in the future. With the minimum age to participate set at 16, we are delighted to partner with the National Conversation by putting one of their questions to our voters. This VoteTopic’s data will then contribute to their national findings. As flags and riots dominate the headlines, political and media narratives would have us believe that, as a country, we are more divided than ever. Do young people agree?

Alex

Data Coordinator

43,573

TOTAL VOTES

10,512

VOTES AGE 5-11

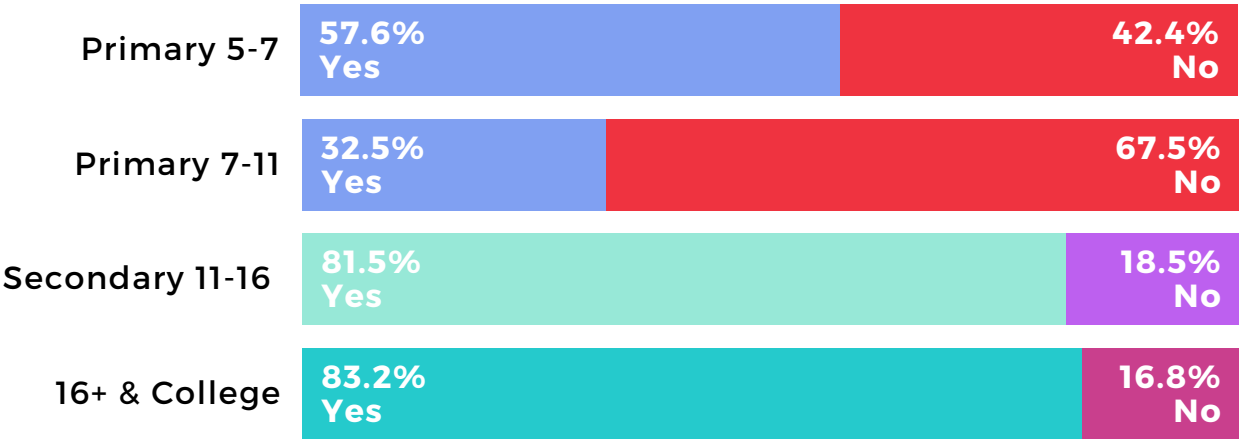
33,061

VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions discussed amongst the different age groups were:

Primary 5-11: “Is it easy to get on well together?”

Secondary, 16+ & College: “Is Britain divided?”



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Voting at Primary differed significantly between ages. A frequent theme in discussions was that people's differences often make it hard to get on with them. However, many did say that understanding one another and making an effort to do so is important. The "No" vote increased sharply in the 7-11 age bracket with almost $\frac{2}{3}$ voting that it is hard to get along well together compared to around 40% of 5-7-year olds.

Older voters were clear: Britain is divided. For many, the primary cause was economic, with the cost of living and wealth inequality driving the division. Immigration was raised repeatedly in debates; students argued that it was used as a scapegoat to distract from other problems in the country. Again and again, the media was identified as a major source of division, as both a catalyst for it and for making the country seem more divided than it is. Many also spoke about how politicians deliberately stoke division for their own political ends. Reform were mentioned multiple times, with some naming them as a cause of division and others seeing their rise only as a sign of it. Others expressed frustration with the Government and saw them as bearing the responsibility.

Lots of voters saw differing faiths, languages and cultures as contributing to division. A few even suggested that maybe Britain will always be a divided country due to the variety cultures and languages of people who call it home.

People need to try to be more united with each other. If we dislike different things, we should respect each other's opinions.

Primary 'Yes' Voter

It can be difficult depending on the person and how they have been brought up/their personalities.

Primary 'No' Voter

[...] students also felt that the high cost of living for so many in our population was a real cause of division [...]

Secondary 'Yes' Voter

We don't think people argue as much because people are more accepting of others in this generation.

Secondary 'No' Voter