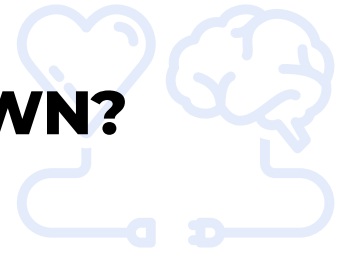


ARE WATER RISKS WELL-KNOWN?



Recent hot weather has seen people flock to rivers, lakes and beaches to relax, play and spend quality time with their loved ones. Tragically, since 5th June, at least 17 people - including 11 teenagers - have died in accidents involving water across the country. Attempting to prevent any more deaths, various water safety organisations, from the RNLI to the Royal Life Saving Society, are urging caution when it comes to trying to cool down in the heat. The problem is often one of awareness, with many not knowing the potential dangers that water can present, from cold water shock to hidden machinery under the surface. With the UK facing a future of hotter and hotter summers, are young people confident that they can keep themselves safe in the water?

Alex
Data Coordinator



39,276

TOTAL VOTES

11,806

VOTES AGE 5-11

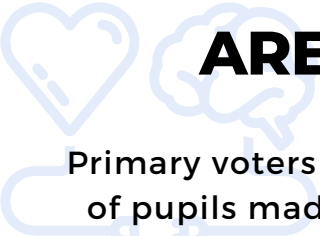
27,470

VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions, discussed amongst the different age groups, were:

Primary 5-11: "Should you learn more about water safety?"
Secondary 11-16, 16+ & College: "Are water risks well-known?"





ARE WATER RISKS WELL-KNOWN?

Primary voters were strongly in favour of learning more about water safety. Lots of pupils made links to their learning in swimming lessons and described the confidence this had given them when it comes to keeping themselves safe in the water. The majority of voters saw it as an important thing to learn about, valuing keeping both themselves and their friends and families safe.

Secondary voters were incredibly divided on this issue. Many students argued that, while they themselves are confident they know water risks, others might not. That people know the risks but will ignore them, either for fun or through peer pressure, was a commonly held view. "They do not think it will happen to them," as one voter put in.

Conversation touched on geographical variations in knowledge. If students were from non-coastal areas, surely water safety knowledge was less important to them? However, some countered by saying that lots of people travel for their holidays and so everyone should be aware of the risks.

Some voters felt confident in managing water risks; many said that they had recently learnt about this topic in assemblies. Others said they would like more detailed information about water safety and were shocked to discover some of the potential risks around water. They saw the annual deaths as tragedies and wanted to see more done in trying to prevent them.

No, because as older children we have already learnt many things about this but for younger kids I would definitely say they should learn more

Primary Voter

I have learnt that knowing the risks gives me the confidence to enjoy the water.

Primary Voter

It is well known, they just don't care.

Secondary Voter

Some people might know the risks but choose to ignore it because they feel pressured by their friends

Secondary Voter