

SHOULD WE TALK MORE ABOUT THE RISKS OF GAMBLING?



The 2026 FIFA Men’s World Cup is set to be the biggest gambling event in history. Whether through social media, adverts or family members, young people are increasingly exposed to the world of gambling. The Gambling Commission found 79% of young people have heard or seen adverts about gambling through either online or offline sources (TV being the most common). Gambling is also an increasingly visible presence in many popular video games, with players paying for a chance of acquiring in-game items, through “lootboxes” and similar mechanics. With its visibility seemingly on the rise, where do young people stand on gambling? Is it a part of their world? Do they feel secure in navigating its potential risks?

Alex
Data Coordinator



31,810

TOTAL VOTES

7,721

VOTES AGE 5-11

24,089

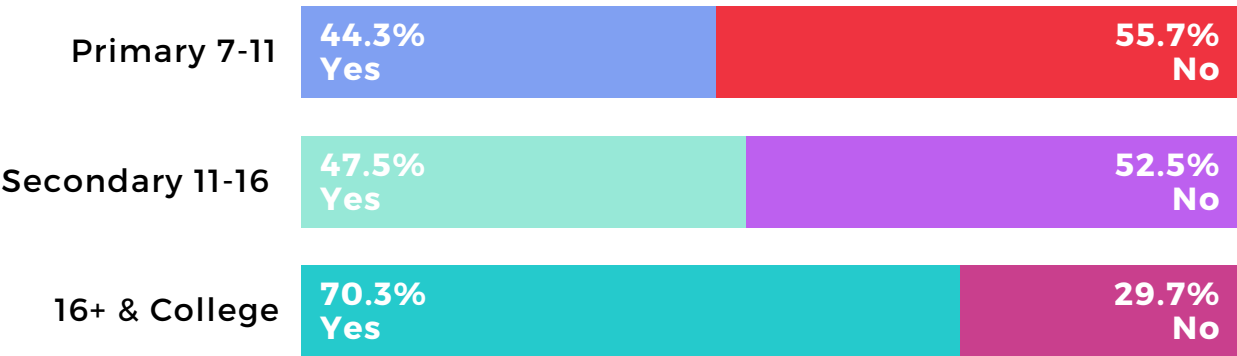
VOTES AGE 11-16+

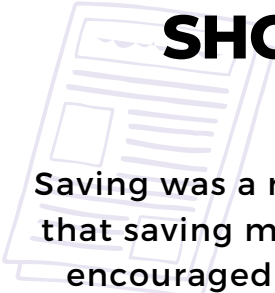
The VoteTopic questions discussed were:

Primary 5-7: “Is it too easy to spend your money?”



Primary 7-11, Secondary 11-16, 16+ & College: “Should we talk more about the risks of gambling?”





SHOULD WE TALK MORE ABOUT THE RISKS OF GAMBLING?

Saving was a recurring theme at lower Primary level. Many pupils held the opinion that saving money is good, and often preferable to spending it - sometimes being encouraged to save by family members. Some voters said that they would save money for a specific purchase but others discussed that they find saving hard.

Many 9-11 voters argued that they were too young to learn about gambling as they were not in charge of their own money. Some also thought that learning about it might encourage people to gamble. However, others thought gambling could have serious and negative consequences and that it is better to learn about it early so they are well prepared for when they grow up.

A number of Secondary voters said they already had a solid awareness of the risks of gambling. They thought that it was already talked about enough, many referencing the information given at the end of gambling adverts such as "Play Responsibly". Some thought it could just be fun between friends and that gambling didn't always involve large amounts of money or irresponsible behaviour. A sizeable proportion did think it should be discussed more, arguing that this would dissuade people from getting into difficulties.

All age groups raised personal agency in discussions. Some voters saw gambling as a matter of personal choice and that accepting or rejecting the risks should be left up to the individual. As one Secondary voter put it, "some adults already know the risks and still choose to do it; they have the right to decide for themselves".

We should learn more because since children aged 11-16 are gambling, they probably do not know the risks and are still wasting their money.

Primary Voter

I think we should not because it is our money and our choice to spend it.

Primary Voter

It can be very risky especially for young people. It can take your money and ruin your friendships and you can get arrested.

Secondary Voter

The risks of gambling are well known and advertising is ubiquitous on every site, app or shop.

Secondary Voter