

DO WE NEED TO EMBRACE NATIONAL FLAGS MORE?

Following the growing appearance of Union and St George's flags in public places across the UK, we asked voters to explore what their presence represents. They looked at common times when flags are usually displayed, such as during sporting events or when marking country-wide days of remembrance or celebration. They also looked more closely at their recent appearance on lampposts, traffic lights and in other public places. Is the increased flag presence an expression of pride or are they stoking division between different communities?

Melanie
Data Manager



59,289

TOTAL VOTES

12,276

VOTES AGE 5-11

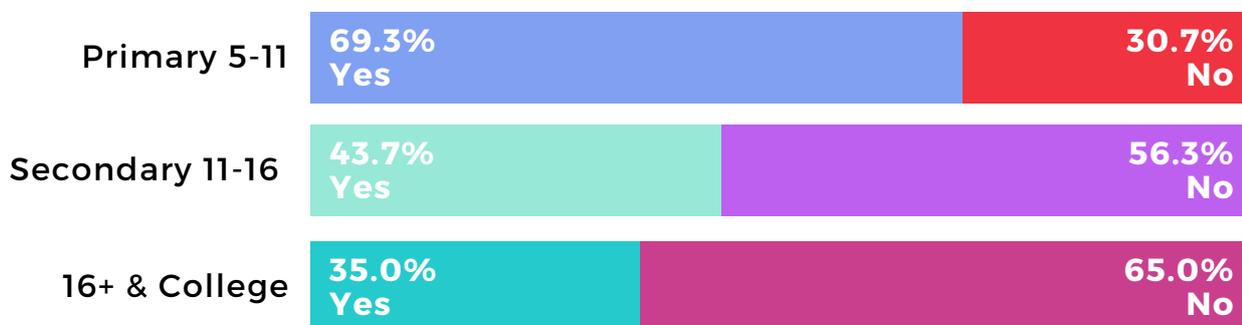
47,013

VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions discussed amongst the different age groups were:

Primary 5-11: "Do you feel proud of living in the UK?"

Secondary, 16+ & College: "Do we need to embrace national flags more?"



Please contact info@votesforschools.com to find out more about the data relating to this VoteTopic.

DO WE NEED TO EMBRACE NATIONAL FLAGS MORE?

Whilst the majority of Primary pupils said they were proud to live in the UK, a not insignificant 31% of them said they weren't. This led to a healthy debate in classrooms, and many voters expressed mixed feelings that held more nuance than a simple yes or no.

Many used examples of the NHS, accessible education and the UK's beaches, parks and nature as reasons why they are proud of where they live. Some also showed pride in their communities. Litter in their local areas and beaches were common reasons for voting 'No', however the most common reason was animosity and a sense that some people are disrespecting British Values.

Secondary students were divided on whether we need to embrace national flags more but a slim majority said 'No' and many teachers were impressed with their class's engagement and thoughtfulness with the topic. College students had a slightly stronger 'No' response, however there was a balance in sentiment throughout the comments we received.

Many 'Yes' voters wanted to reclaim the meaning of our flags, particularly the St George's flag. Some 'No' voters argued that it isn't the right time to embrace them, as they are currently being used to sow division in our communities.

I am really happy that we have the NHS and people can access health care. My mum stays up late working for the NHS and I am proud of her.

Primary 'Yes' Voter

There is too much rubbish in the sea which makes me feel angry [and] some people in the UK do not treat others with respect.

Primary 'No' Voter

Flags can be used to welcome others to our country; they need [to be] flown [when] hosting sporting events, things that we're proud of as a nation - we shouldn't see our national flag as a negative.

Secondary 'Yes' Voter

Most [...] felt that we should not embrace national flags more in the current political climate. The issue raises [powerful] emotions on both sides. Good to debate it & discuss British values with their power to do good.

Secondary 'No' Voter