

DOES FASHION TEACH US ABOUT BLACK HISTORY?

Every October, we mark Black History Month by encouraging voters to reflect on identity, question the status quo, and celebrate cultural diversity. This year's theme invited participants to explore the role of clothing and fashion in expressing Black history and highlighting the UK's vibrant cultural fabric. The timing coincided with global fashion events such as London Fashion Week, where Black influences, past and present, remain a defining feature of style and design. This report presents the results of the vote and examines how young people feel about fashion's ability to teach us about our own and others' heritage.

Melanie
Data Manager



63,855

TOTAL VOTES

11,922

VOTES AGE 5-11

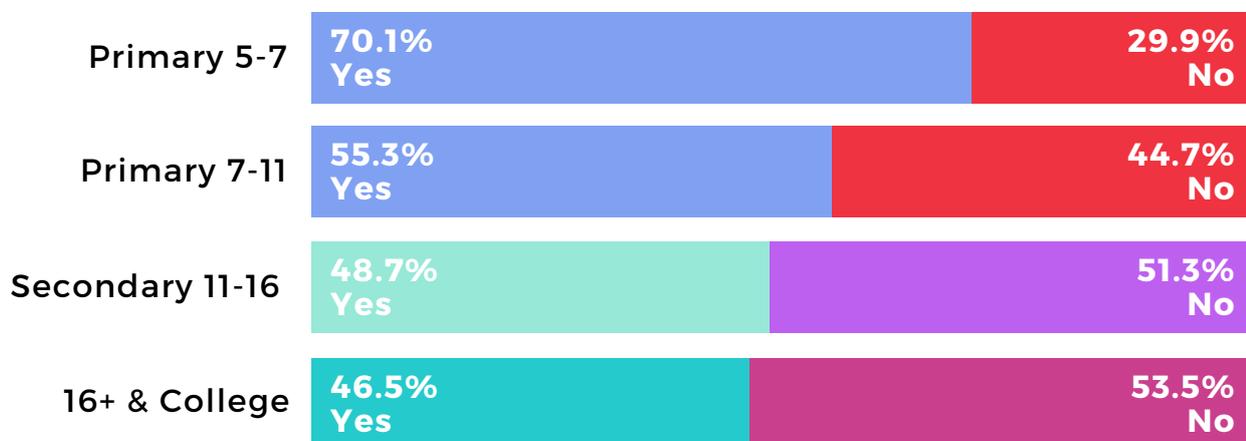
51,933

VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions, discussed amongst the different age groups:

Primary 5-7: "Do your clothes show who you are?"

Primary 7-11, Secondary 11-16, 16+ & College: "Does fashion teach us about Black history?"



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

DOES FASHION TEACH US ABOUT BLACK HISTORY?

Young people were divided over whether fashion can teach us about Black history, with not just a split voting outcome but also a plethora of students struggling to decide on a firm Yes or No. Many said that we can come to understand small amounts about Black history through clothing trends, however they also wanted to stress that there is a lot more we can learn through other mediums.

Other voters argued that, whilst it is possible to learn about Black history and culture through fashion, most people don't have a strong enough background knowledge of fashion to recognise historical references or statements. Some young people said they had learned a lot through their VotesforSchools lesson, which was evidence to them that fashion can teach us about different histories if we take the time to engage and reflect.

Most students felt that we could learn through fashion, which was most evident in the 5-7 Primary result, where 70% felt that clothes can show who a person is. The conflict seemed to come from whether we can learn much about history specifically; identity, culture, heritage, and interests were all areas that young people felt could be expressed through clothes.

Primary 'Yes' Voter

Yes, fashion can teach you about fashions of Black history and its rich culture. Also Black people can design clothes and showcase their culture live at Fashion Week! This gives us a chance to know more about Black history.

Primary 'No' Voter

We believe that the contributions of Black people should extend further than just fashion. Rosa Parks has not been remembered for what she wore but rather the stand that she took against discrimination.

Secondary 'Yes' Voter

After the lesson they could see that Black history was everywhere around them. They were all surprised at how many fashion trends they didn't know originated from Black history.

Secondary 'No' Voter

I don't think most people have a good enough understanding of the origin of fashion statements to make those links.