

# SHOULD SKINCARE PRODUCTS HAVE AGE LIMITS?

*For*

our final VoteTopic of the year, we asked young people what topics they want to discuss and teen skincare trends came out on top! Platforms like YouTube and TikTok have increased the visibility and appeal of skincare products for younger generations, meaning those as young as 9 are developing skincare routines. Whilst some products pose little threat to young skin, others contain ingredients that can cause lasting damage and aren't recommended for children and teenagers. We asked our voters to consider whether age limits would ensure skincare products with unsafe ingredients aren't sold to those under a certain age.



*Melanie*



DATA MANAGER

16,711

TOTAL VOTES

5,274

VOTES AGE 5-11

11,437

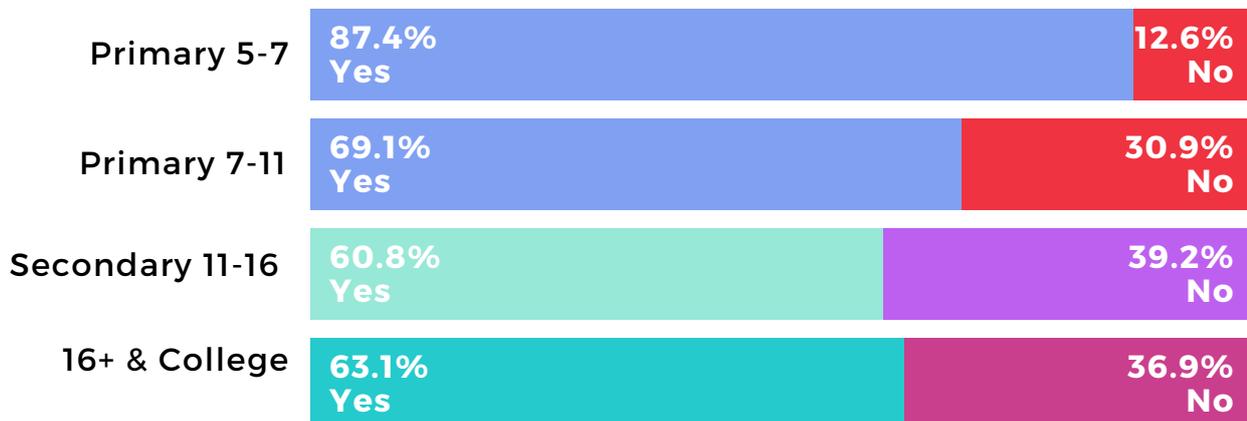
VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions discussed amongst the different age groups were:

**Primary 5-7:** "Do you know how to care for your skin?"

**Primary 7-11 & Secondary 11-16:** "Should skincare products have age limits?"

**16+ & College:** "Should skincare products have age restrictions?"



# SHOULD SKINCARE PRODUCTS HAVE AGE LIMITS?

The potential for negative side effects was the most common reason young people gave in favour of introducing age limits. They argued that using ingredients not suitable for young skin can cause long-term damage and that most skincare brands are designed for adult use.

We still received a high number of 'No' votes, and for many, the matter came down to who is responsible for the products that young people are accessing. Most 'No' voters argued that parents should be supervising the skincare and beauty products that their children are using. They felt that in some circumstances, young people might need to use stronger skincare, making a blanket ban too restrictive.

Despite this, the majority called for age limits to stop young people from unknowingly damaging their skin before it has fully matured. There was also a strong call for greater awareness about the ingredients used in these products, alongside better visibility on packaging to ensure people know what they are using and the potential risks. Secondary students in particular felt that there was a shared responsibility to raise awareness, between skincare brands, their customers and the parents of young people.

*Age limits should be applied on products otherwise young people can damage their skin and some chemicals may have side effects.*

*No, because some gentle skincare is fine and if I don't know what to put on I can just ask my mum or dad.*

*Most children do not realise that they are causing more long term damage to their skin. By increasing the age ratings of products, and potentially IDing for them, it could prevent skin damage for young children.*

*It should be up to parents to decide which products their children can use by looking at the ingredients, rather than putting an age restriction on them.*

Please contact [info@votesforschools.com](mailto:info@votesforschools.com) to find out more about the data relating to this VoteTopic.