

## Should everyone be able to vote at 16?

04<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022



**39%**

of Primary 5-11  
voters said No.



**55%**

of Secondary  
voters said No.



**58%**

of 16+ & College  
voters said No.

To celebrate the events taking place as part of **UK Parliament Week** this month, our voters explored a significant issue of their own. They considered whether the current voting age for **general elections** and **English** and **Northern Irish** local elections should be lowered from 18 to 16. **Local Scottish** and **Welsh** elections have a **voting age** of 16 already in place.

All voters considered the same question: **“Should everyone be able to vote at 16?”**.

**45,313** young people in the UK took part in this vote.

### Sample of 45,313 voters

Primary:	14,889 voters
Secondary:	27,674 voters
16+ & College:	2,750 voters

**Please Note:** The sample size featured reflects the number of pupils and students that cast their vote on this topic during the week in which this vote was held. This sample size does not reflect the number of pupils and students who discussed this VoteTopic but did not get a chance to participate in the voting.



**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**



**Be heard.**



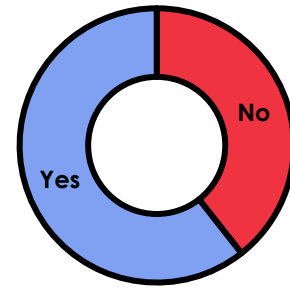
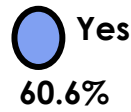
### Primary Grand Total

Primary age 5-11:

"Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

Yes 60.64% (9,028)

No 39.36% (5,861)



We asked our Primary age 5-11 voters some additional questions this week: **"Is it fair that different parts of the UK have different voting ages?"**, **"Do you think you know enough about voting in the UK to do it yourself?"** and **"Which issue do you think is the most important for under-18s to vote on?"**

### Primary age 5-11 additional questions: 46 votes

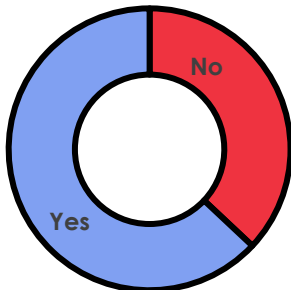
1. "Is it fair that different parts of the UK have different voting ages?"

Yes 63.04% (29)

No 36.96% (17)

Yes: 63.0%

No: 37.0%



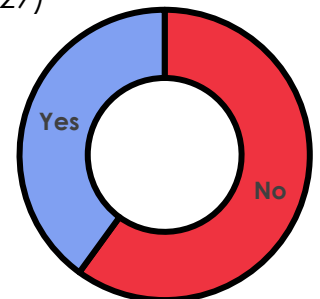
2. "Do you think you know enough about voting in the UK to do it yourself?"

Yes 40.00% (18)

No 60.00% (27)

Yes: 40.0%

No: 60.0%



3. "Which issue do you think is the most important for under-18s to vote on?"

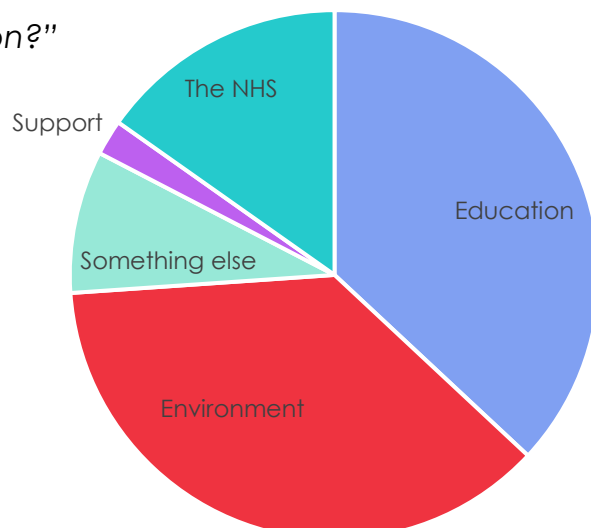
Education 36.96% (17)

Environment 36.96% (17)

Something else 8.70% (4)

Support 2.17% (1)

The NHS 15.22% (7)



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

## Secondary and College Grand Total

Secondary:

"Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

Yes 45.28% (12,532)

No 54.72% (15,142)

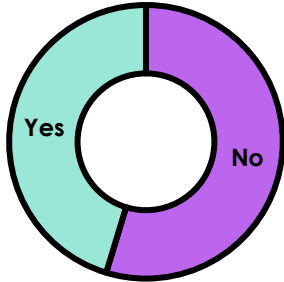
16+ & College:

"Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

Yes 41.78% (1,149)

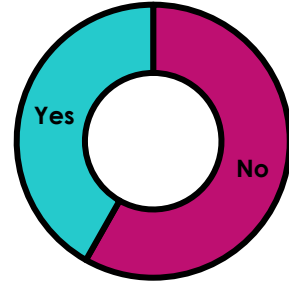
No 58.22% (1,601)

Yes  
45.3%



No  
54.7%

Yes  
41.8%



No  
58.2%

We asked our Secondary, College and 16+ voters some additional questions this week: "Do you think 16- and 17-year olds know enough to vote on key issues?", "Would you use the vote if you had it from the age of 16?" and "Which one of these would you like to see in ..."

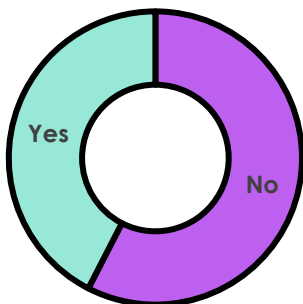
### Secondary additional questions: 172 votes

1. Secondary: "Do you think 16- and 17-year olds know enough to vote on key issues?"

Yes 42.44% (73)

No 57.56% (99)

Yes  
42.4%



No  
57.6%

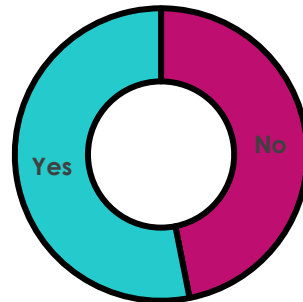
### College & 16+ additional questions: 32 votes

1. College & 16+: "Do you think 16- and 17-year olds know enough to vote on key issues?"

Yes 53.13% (17)

No 46.88% (15)

Yes  
53.1%



No  
46.9%



Be informed.



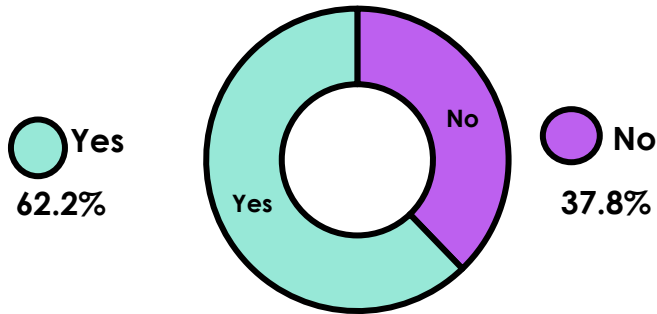
Be curious.



Be heard.

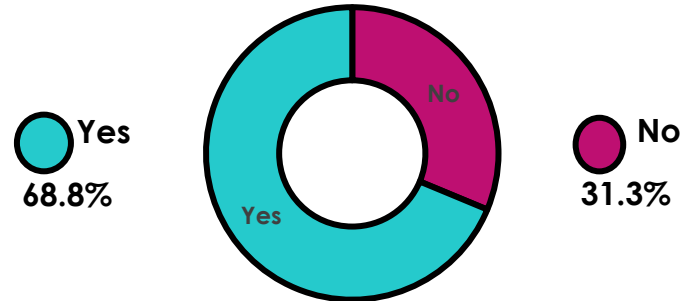
2.Secondary: "Would you use the vote if you had it from the age of 16?"

Yes 62.21% (107)  
No 37.79% (65)



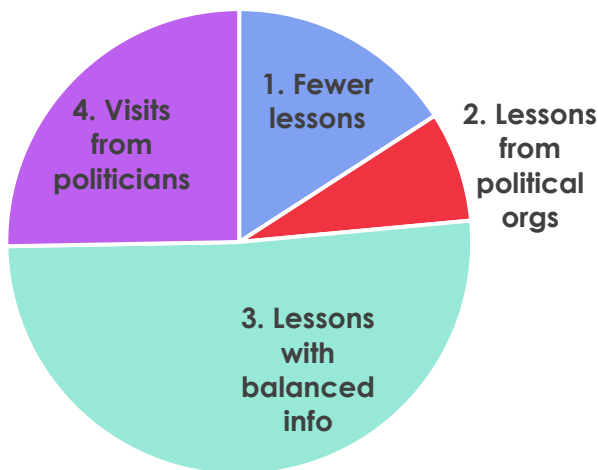
2. College & 16+: "Would you use the vote if you had it from the age of 16?"

Yes 68.75% (22)  
No 31.25% (10)



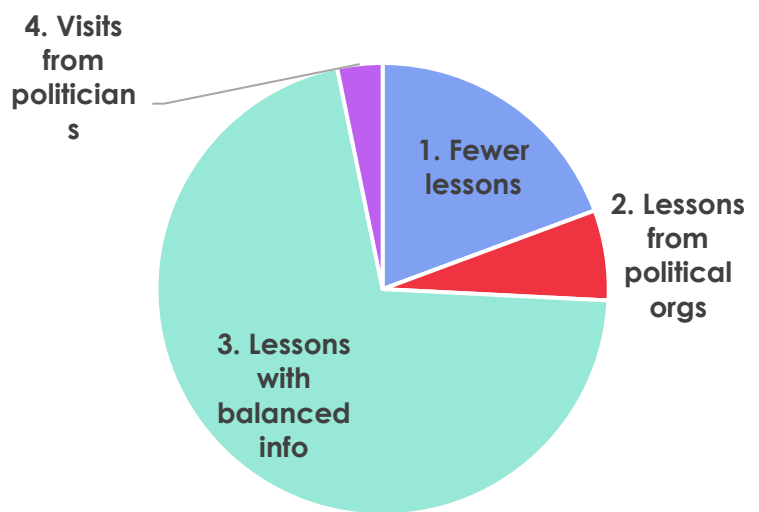
3.Secondary: Which one of these would you like to see in schools? (Choose one option only)

1. Fewer lessons on politics education in general: 15.88% (27 votes)
2. Lessons from political organisations or political parties: 7.65% (13 votes)
3. Lessons providing balanced information about politics and voting: 51.18% (87 votes)
4. Visits from and discussions with politicians: 25.29% (43 votes)



3.College & 16+: Which one of these would you like to see in schools? (Choose one option only)

1. Fewer lessons on politics education in general: 19.35% (6 votes)
2. Lessons from political organisations or political parties: 6.45% (2 votes)
3. Lessons providing balanced information about politics and voting: 70.97% (22 votes)
4. Visits from and discussions with politicians. 3.23% (1 vote)



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.



## Gender

Primary age 5-11: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

	Yes %	Count	No %	Count	Total Count
Female	58.80%	4,048	41.20%	2,836	6,884
Male	62.71%	4,296	37.29%	2,555	6,851
Diverse*	59.27%	684	40.73%	470	1,154

Secondary: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

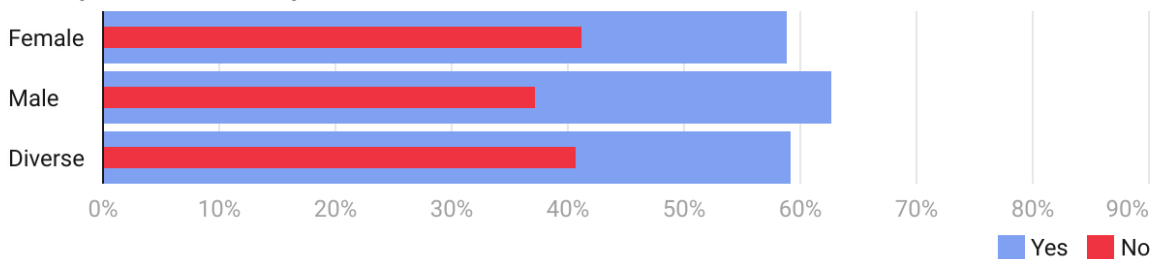
	Yes %	Count	No %	Count	Total Count
Female	45.08%	5,678	54.92%	6,918	12,596
Male	45.54%	5,494	54.46%	6,569	12,063
Diverse*	45.11%	1,360	54.89%	1,655	3,015

16+ & College: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

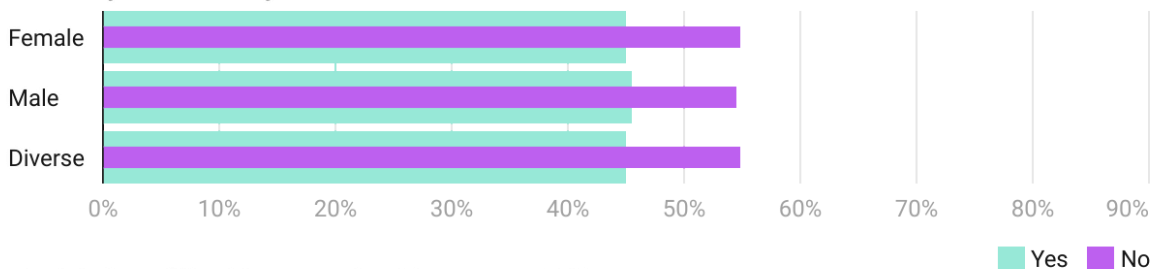
	Yes %	Count	No %	Count	Total Count
Female	45.02%	552	54.98%	674	1,226
Male	32.45%	329	67.55%	685	1,014
Diverse*	52.55%	268	47.45%	242	510

\*Votes collected as "Diverse" include students that identify as gender diverse, as well as students that wish not to disclose or were not able to specify their gender.

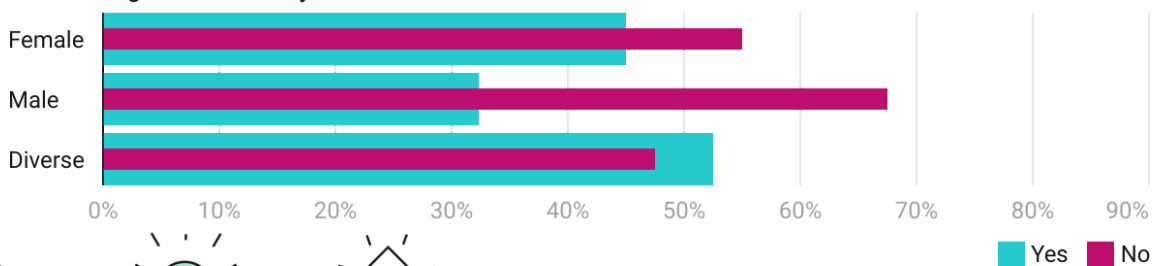
Primary 5-11: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"



Secondary: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"



16+ & College: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

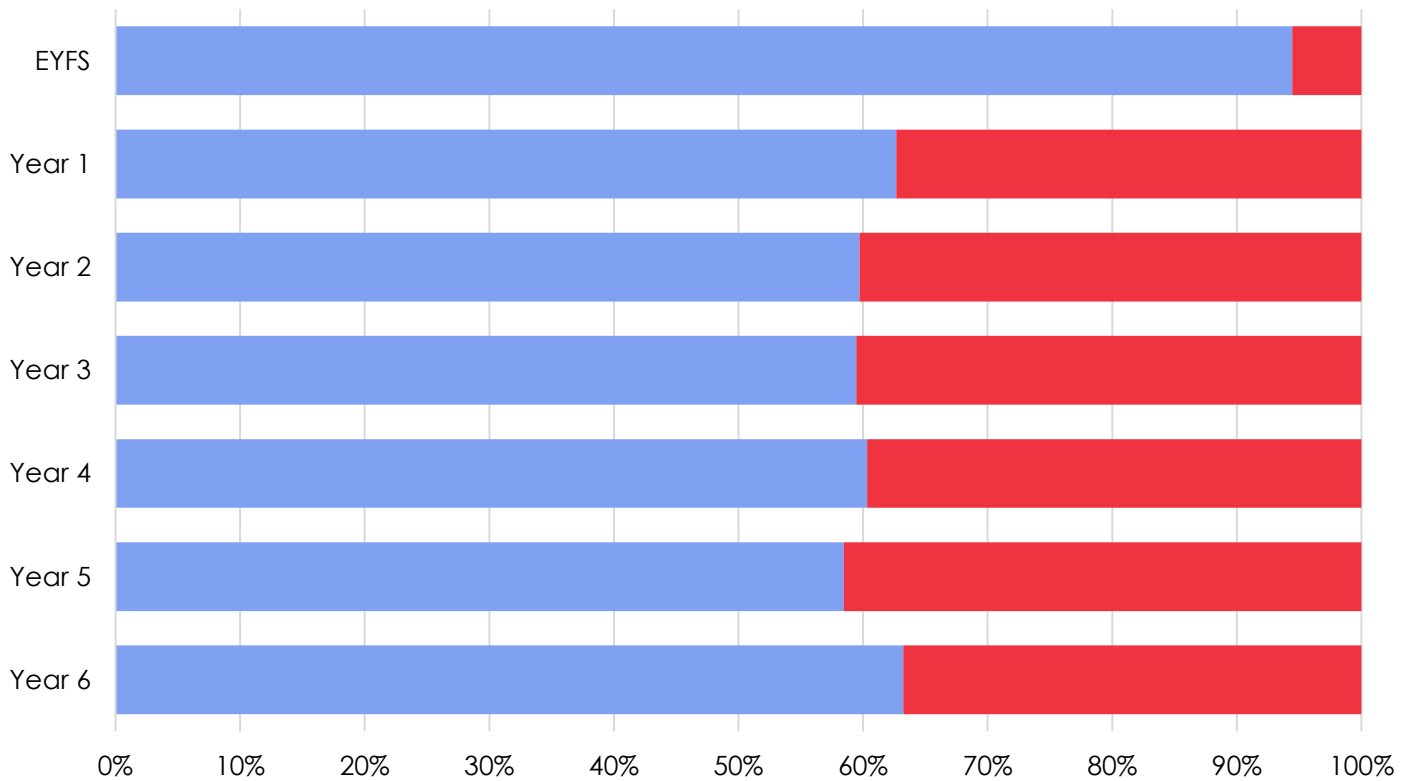


## Age

Primary Age 5-11: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

Year Group	Yes %	Count	No %	Count	Total Count
EYFS	94.44%	51	5.56%	3	54
Year 1	62.67%	804	37.33%	479	1283
Year 2	59.72%	1,201	40.28%	810	2011
Year 3	59.45%	1767	40.55%	1205	2972
Year 4	60.34%	1823	39.66%	1198	3021
Year 5	58.45%	1622	41.55%	1153	2775
Year 6	63.23%	1670	36.77%	971	2641

\*Age groups with fewer than 40 votes are not displayed on the charts. These are marked with a \* in the tables.



Be informed.



Be curious.



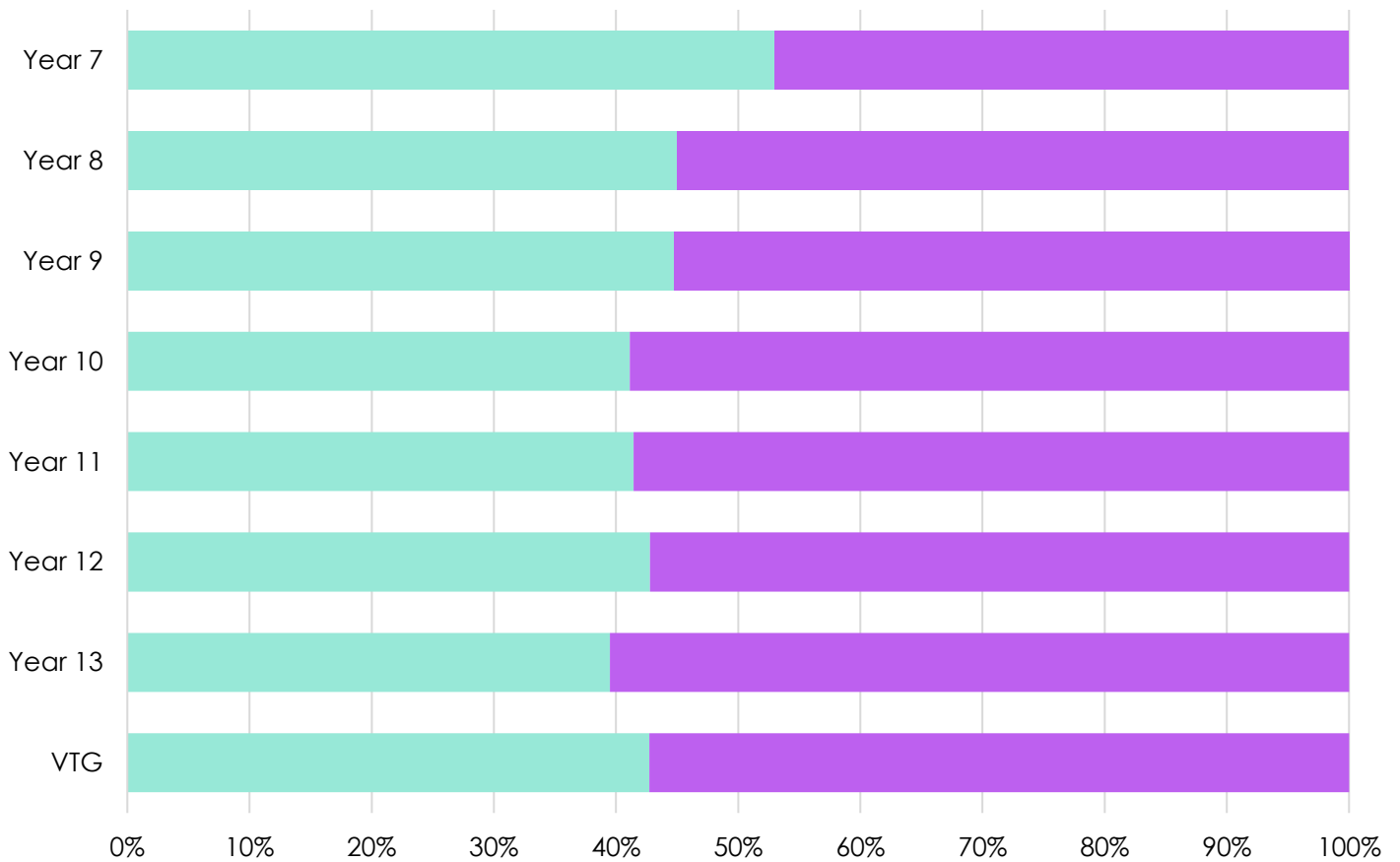
Be heard.



## Secondary & College: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

Year Group	Yes %	Count	No %	Count	Total Count
Year 7	53.00%	3107	47.00%	2755	5862
Year 8	45.00%	2533	55.00%	3096	5629
Year 9	44.74%	2824	55.26%	3488	6312
Year 10	41.13%	2362	58.87%	3381	5743
Year 11	41.45%	1084	58.55%	1531	2615
Year 12	42.77%	645	57.23%	863	1508
Year 13	39.51%	194	60.49%	297	491
Vertical Tutor Group	42.72%	1021	57.28%	1369	2390

\* Age groups with fewer than 10 votes have not been included in the table.



**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**



**Be heard.**



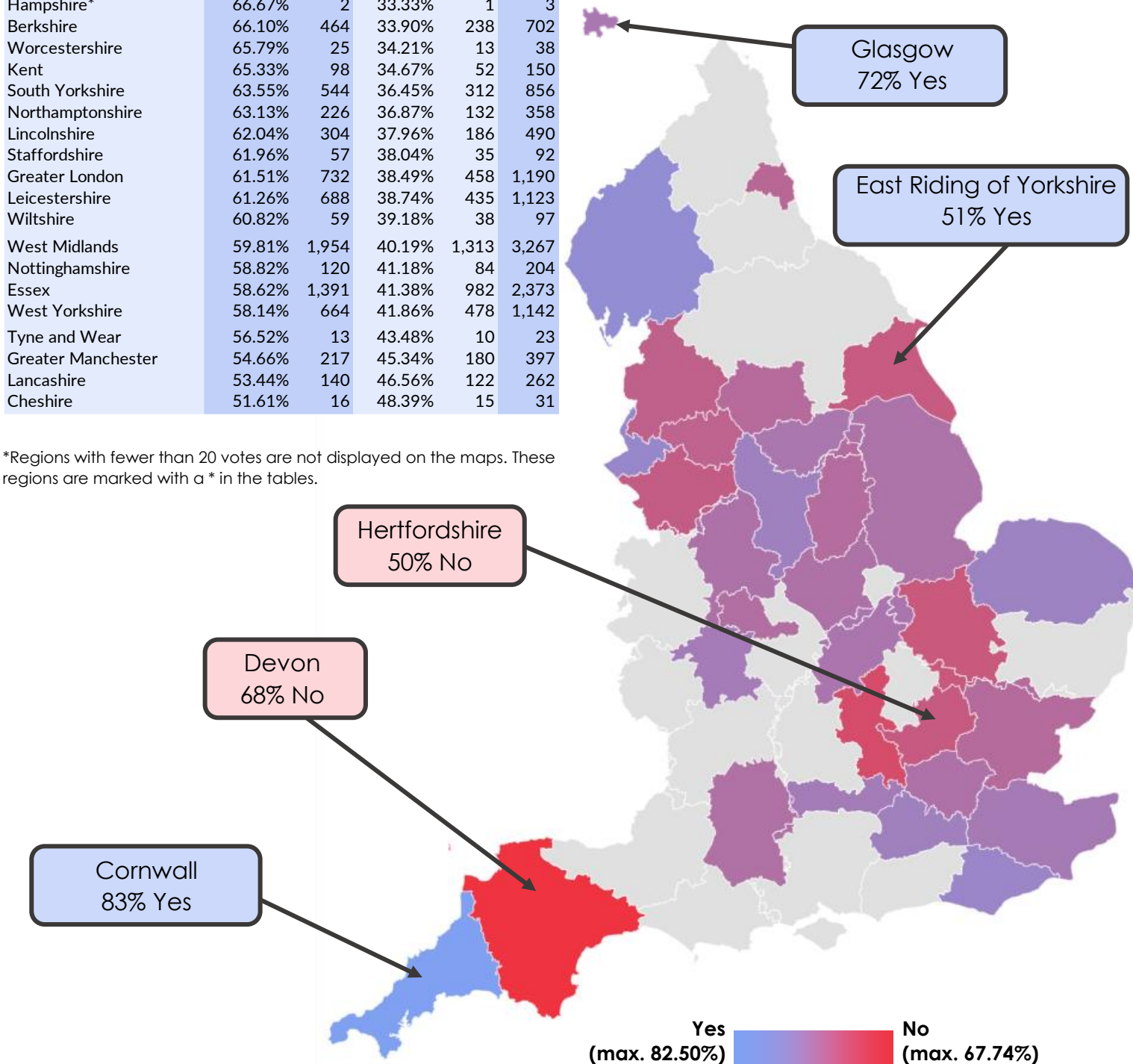
## Location

Primary Age 5-11: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

	Yes %	Yes Count	No %	No Count	Total Count
Cornwall	82.50%	33	17.50%	7	40
Cumbria	73.91%	34	26.09%	12	46
Glasgow	71.60%	58	28.40%	23	81
Merseyside	71.43%	75	28.57%	30	105
East Sussex	70.73%	29	29.27%	12	41
Norfolk	68.92%	51	31.08%	23	74
Derbyshire	68.15%	184	31.85%	86	270
Surrey	67.69%	551	32.31%	263	814
Hampshire*	66.67%	2	33.33%	1	3
Berkshire	66.10%	464	33.90%	238	702
Worcestershire	65.79%	25	34.21%	13	38
Kent	65.33%	98	34.67%	52	150
South Yorkshire	63.55%	544	36.45%	312	856
Northamptonshire	63.13%	226	36.87%	132	358
Lincolnshire	62.04%	304	37.96%	186	490
Staffordshire	61.96%	57	38.04%	35	92
Greater London	61.51%	732	38.49%	458	1,190
Leicestershire	61.26%	688	38.74%	435	1,123
Wiltshire	60.82%	59	39.18%	38	97
West Midlands	59.81%	1,954	40.19%	1,313	3,267
Nottinghamshire	58.82%	120	41.18%	84	204
Essex	58.62%	1,391	41.38%	982	2,373
West Yorkshire	58.14%	664	41.86%	478	1,142
Tyne and Wear	56.52%	13	43.48%	10	23
Greater Manchester	54.66%	217	45.34%	180	397
Lancashire	53.44%	140	46.56%	122	262
Cheshire	51.61%	16	48.39%	15	31

	Yes %	Yes Count	No %	No Count	Total Count
East Riding of Yorkshire	50.54%	47	49.46%	46	93
Hertfordshire	50.18%	137	49.82%	136	273
North Yorkshire*	50.00%	9	50.00%	9	18
Cambridgeshire	49.60%	62	50.40%	63	125
Buckinghamshire	44.07%	26	55.93%	33	59
Oxfordshire*	40.00%	2	60.00%	3	5
Gloucestershire*	37.50%	6	62.50%	10	16
Devon	32.26%	10	67.74%	21	31

\*Regions with fewer than 20 votes are not displayed on the maps. These regions are marked with a \* in the tables.



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

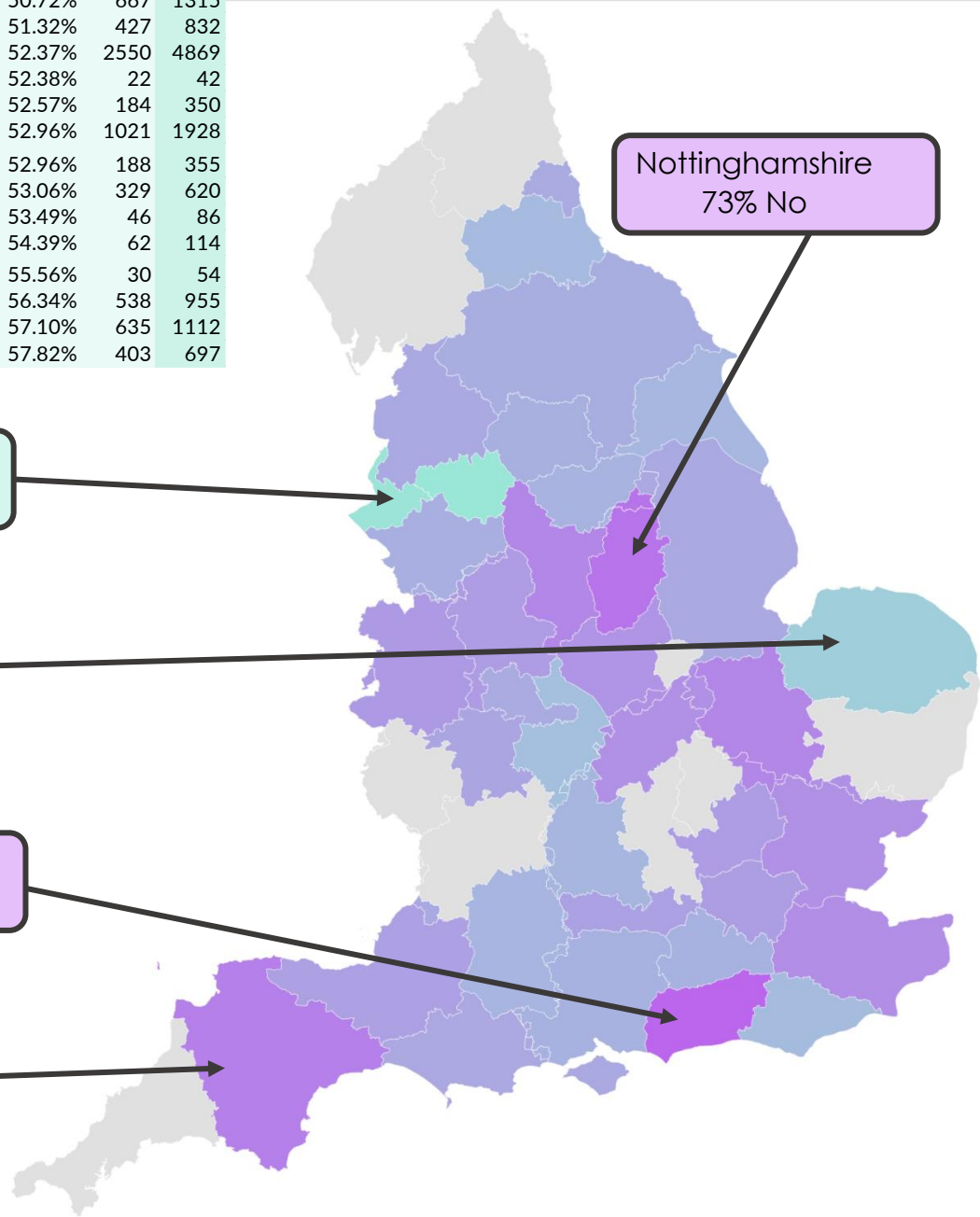




## Secondary & College: "Should everyone be able to vote at 16?"

	Yes		No		Total Count
	%	Count	%	Count	
Greater Manchester	70.00%	28	30.00%	12	40
Merseyside	69.05%	29	30.95%	13	42
Norfolk	60.61%	40	39.39%	26	66
Warwickshire	55.56%	25	44.44%	20	45
East Sussex	53.88%	264	46.12%	226	490
Durham	53.52%	190	46.48%	165	355
East Riding of Yorkshire	52.02%	219	47.98%	202	421
Oxfordshire	51.72%	30	48.28%	28	58
Wiltshire	51.36%	397	48.64%	376	773
South Yorkshire	50.70%	1021	49.30%	993	2014
Surrey	50.18%	554	49.82%	550	1104
Hampshire	50.17%	288	49.83%	286	574
West Yorkshire	49.53%	997	50.47%	1016	2013
Cheshire	49.28%	648	50.72%	667	1315
North Yorkshire	48.68%	405	51.32%	427	832
West Midlands	47.63%	2319	52.37%	2550	4869
Tyne and Wear	47.62%	20	52.38%	22	42
Bristol	47.43%	166	52.57%	184	350
Lancashire	47.04%	907	52.96%	1021	1928
Isle of Wight	47.04%	167	52.96%	188	355
Lincolnshire	46.94%	291	53.06%	329	620
Dorset	46.51%	40	53.49%	46	86
Worcestershire	45.61%	52	54.39%	62	114
Berkshire	44.44%	24	55.56%	30	54
Somerset	43.66%	417	56.34%	538	955
Greater London	42.90%	477	57.10%	635	1112
Hertfordshire	42.18%	294	57.82%	403	697

	Yes		No		Total Count
	%	Count	%	Count	
Staffordshire	42.18%	267	57.82%	366	633
Shropshire	41.28%	135	58.72%	192	327
Leicestershire	39.03%	297	60.97%	464	761
Essex	37.92%	157	62.08%	257	414
Northamptonshire	37.90%	1145	62.10%	1876	3021
Kent	36.75%	749	63.25%	1289	2038
Cambridgeshire	34.21%	13	65.79%	25	38
Derbyshire	34.10%	399	65.90%	771	1170
Devon	31.60%	164	68.40%	355	519
Gloucestershire*	28.57%	2	71.43%	5	7
Nottinghamshire	27.27%	33	72.73%	88	121
West Sussex	22.00%	11	78.00%	39	50
Buckinghamshire*	0.00%	0	100.00%	1	1



Greater Manchester  
70% Yes

Norfolk  
61% Yes

West Sussex  
20% No

Devon  
100% No

Nottinghamshire  
73% No

Yes (max. 70.00%) No (max. 78.00%)



## Yes Voter Comments – “Should everyone be able to vote at 16?”

" We should be able to vote at 16 because **our futures are affected** by these votes for a long time and at 16 **we know enough.**"

Primary School, Berkshire

"It is **my future** so my opinion counts."

Primary School, South Yorkshire

"16 year olds should be able to vote because lots of **16 year olds know a lot** about the world. The discussions and results will have **an impact on our future.**"

Primary School, Greater London

"Just as there are adults who are uninformed about politics there are teens, however allowing teens to have an **active role** in the outcomes of elections will **force politicians** to consider **the longer term impacts of their policies.**"

Secondary School, Dorset

"Those who are 16+ have **as much capacity to vote** as those who are 40 or 50 and politically disengaged. If someone turns 18 and will pay taxes during a party's time in power then **they should have influence as to who this may be.**"

Secondary School, Greater London

"**The age of consent is 16**, if the government think we are old enough and mature when it comes to that , **then why can't we then also vote.**"

Secondary School, West Sussex

"Some 16-year-olds are **responsible enough** to vote, but some are not. **Education in politics** would help to increase the **empowerment and ability** of 16-year-olds to vote. It would be more useful than certain parts of Maths and English."

College, West Yorkshire



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.



## No Voter Comments – “Should everyone be able to vote at 16?”

“You shouldn't be able to vote at 16 because you **don't get taught enough** about it first.”

Secondary School, Northamptonshire

“People at the age of 16 are **too immature**. Teenagers mostly **aren't interested in politics** and would rather do something else. The age of 18 is as good as it is.”

Secondary School, Hertfordshire

“As a young adult, I don't think we have **enough responsibility** to be able to vote; many teenagers **are not aware of current affairs** and issues in the world. Not only that; teenagers are **easily influenced by social media and their peers**. Whereas at 18, you feel more responsible; are more informed with affairs in the world. As a young adult, I think voting would also be rather **tedious**; some of us are **indecisive**; voting is more impacting than deciding what you want to eat for lunch; **would require knowledge**.”

Secondary School, Greater London

“I believe, at the age of 16, we are still **too immature** to vote responsibly for a particular party. There are **so many influencers on social media**, and at the age of 16 we can still be **easily manipulated**. Therefore, I believe we shouldn't be able to vote at the age of 16.”

Secondary school, Worcestershire

“Anyone under the age of 18 is still **too easily influenced by social media, parents, teachers, etc.** It is far better to wait until 18 to vote, where individuals can **make more informed decisions**.”

Secondary school, Northampton

“At 16, most people **don't know enough** about what they're voting for.”

College, Greater London



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.