



WHAT ARE VOTESFORSCHOOLS' 9 KEY THEMES?

Each of our weekly VoteTopics falls under one of our 9 Key Themes, which offer a snapshot of the world in which we live today. Below is some more information of what each theme comprises.

Key Theme	Issues & Topics within Key Themes
1) Health & wellbeing	
Mental wellbeing	Mental health disorders, stress, work-life balance, sports, exercise, mindfulness, happiness, emotional health, self-esteem, body image, eating disorders, self-harm, abuse, suicide
Health & medicine	NHS, obesity, diet, vaccines, antibiotics, HIV/aids, sanitation, periods, medicine, cancer, organ donation, sexual health, smoking, drugs, gambling, addiction
Healthy relationships	Keeping yourself safe, sexualisation, consent, sexual harassment, positive relationships, malnutrition, child marriage, domestic violence, online safety, pornography, exploitation, FGM, sexual health
2) Equalities & identity	
Protected characteristics	Gender, race, age, sex, sexuality, religion, disability/learning difficulties, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity

Attitudes & isms	Sexism, gender equality, feminism, racism, islamophobia, anti-Semitism, prejudice, stereotyping, discrimination, stigma, bullying, banter, toxic masculinity, "lad" culture, harassment, hate crime
Societal issues	Human rights, integration, immigration/emigration, passports, citizenship, tolerance, power, vulnerability
3) Environment & climate change	
Global warming	Climate change, pollution, natural resources, energy, recycling, factory farming, sustainability, travel, air quality, transportation
Weather & climate	Natural disasters (cause & prevention), extreme weather events, migration, environmental refugees
Nature & ecosystems	Wildlife, animal welfare, conservation, extinction, plastic, waste disposal, consumerism, housing, urbanisation, development, national parks, water, oceans, forests, parks, space
4) Global issues & politics	
UK issues	Brexit, free school meals, Coronavirus response, cronyism, inequalities, UK political parties, general elections, local elections, censuses, surveys, polls
Global issues	War & peace, refugees, poverty, population, food & water scarcity, corruption, conflict, access to education, health epidemics, transparency, interdependence, populism, inequality, globalisation, military, nuclear weapons, biosecurity, famine, power, humanitarian crises, trafficking

Politicians & systems	Political leaders, movements, democracy, democratisation, dictators, types of political system, national identity, freedom of speech, international security
5) Science & technology	
Discoveries & research	New scientific research, GM crops, lab-grown meat, stem cell research, controversial scientific innovations, infrastructure, ethics
Personal devices & tech	Personal devices (e.g. mobile phones & tablets), life online, social media, data security, surveillance, algorithms, Virtual Reality, privacy, cybersecurity
The future of tech	New technological advances (e.g. drones & robots), artificial intelligence, the changing of the news, automation of cars and jobs, space exploration & travel
6) Community & charity	
Citizenship	Integration, immigration, multiculturalism, services, society, shared values, respecting differences, housing, family life, inequalities between parts of the UK, lifestyles, foreign aid, international solidarity
Charity & altruism	Local charities, fundraising, food banks, supporting the elderly, homelessness, neighbours & communities across borders (e.g. the EU)
Community action	Petitioning, campaigning, land reform, loneliness, free school meals, the NHS, volunteering, youth groups

7) Crime, justice & extremism	
Societal issues	Access to health & social care, anti-social behaviour, money laundering, minority issues, gangs, knives & weapons, violence, grooming, child trafficking, genocide, modern slavery
Authorities & the law	Crime, privacy, surveillance, police, criminal justice system, prisons system, role of Parliament and House of Lords in making laws, secret service, death penalty
Attitudes & extremism	Political divisions, polarisation, freedom of speech, no-platforming, conspiracy theories, radicalisation, extremism, terrorism, crimes against humanity
8) Jobs, economy & education	
Careers & employment	Teamwork, entrepreneurship, business, work-life balance, transnational corporations, international trade, fair trade, job markets, future of jobs
Finances & the economy	Financial literacy, budgeting, investment, tax, credit cards, borrowing/debt, role of banks, Government spending, financial crises
Continuing education	Ambition, goals, school, learning, exams, education system, tests, apprenticeships, qualifications, university, unemployment
9) Culture, media & the arts	
Culture & heritage	Language, sport, food & drink, museums, libraries, galleries, parks, tourism, philosophy, remembering people who shaped the UK

Media & entertainment	News & TV consumption, fake news, analysing the news, advertising, brands, celebrities, cancel culture, film, music, books, art, podcasts, social media
British “institutions”	British customs & traditions, “Britishness”, the Royal Family, UK political parties, Church & State