

Young Voices on Democracy in Wales

The
Electoral
Commission

Our latest research reveals what's shaping 11-25-year-olds' political engagement and why stronger democratic education in schools matters.

1

Political interest reflects opportunity

Parental influence

43%

are interested
in politics if their
parents are

But

0%

are interested
if their parents
are not

Social background

62%

of those
from more
advantaged
communities
are interested

Compared to

26%

of those
from less
advantaged
communities⁽¹⁾

Interest also links to awareness

14%

were aware that
a Senedd election
is scheduled for 2026

1. Measure of advantage based on social grade categories as defined by the Office for National Statistics.

Social media is the top source of political information

2

The most common sources for hearing about politics are

52%

Social media



44%

Family



39%

TV



Trust in social media is low

41%

come across fake political information at least weekly

31%

believe at least some of what they see

More democratic education is needed in schools

3

The majority of young people trust the information they learn about politics at school, but they aren't getting enough of it

21%

of those 18 and under have heard about it here in the last year

72%

think they should learn more in this setting

In conclusion...

Good democratic education can help create fairer access to politics for young people, but right now it's unevenly accessed and inconsistent.

To read more about our findings and future plans, head to our website **electoralcommission.org.uk/youth-opinion-research**

