

Young Voices on Democracy in Northern Ireland

The
Electoral
Commission

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

Political interest reflects opportunity

Parental influence

52%

are interested in politics if their parents are

But only

3%

are interested if their parents are not

Social background

59%

of those from more advantaged communities are interested

Compared to

20%

of those from less advantaged communities⁽¹⁾

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

2

Social media is one of the top sources of political information

The most common sources for hearing about politics are

48%

TV



44%

Family



40%

Social media



Trust in social media is low

40%

come across fake political information at least weekly

38%

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

26%

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

80%

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

