

# Young Voices on Democracy in Scotland

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

1

### Parental influence

**48%**

are interested in politics if their parents are

But only

**3%**

are interested if their parents are not

### Social background

**68%**

of those from more advantaged communities are interested

Compared to

**36%**

of those from less advantaged communities<sup>(1)</sup>

### Interest also links to awareness

**27%**

were aware that a Scottish Parliament 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

**54%**

Social media



**47%**

Family



**47%**

TV



Trust in social media is low

**46%**

come across fake political information at least weekly

**42%**

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

**32%**

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](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/youth-opinion-research)**

