

VOTESFORSCHOOLS 9 KEY THEMES

This document outlines VotesforSchools' 9 Key Themes. All VoteTopics are mapped to one of these themes in our weekly Curriculum Guides.

Use the keywords below to search for previous VoteTopics on our website, or see p.4 for an overview of the kinds of topics covered by these 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 & Stat

Our 9 Key Themes summarised

1) HEALTH & WELLBEING

These topics explore issues ranging from vaccinations and health misinformation, to mental and emotional wellbeing, to the risks associated with vaping.

2) EQUALITIES & IDENTITY

These topics highlight protected characteristics and the issues by which these are threatened, such as homophobia, sexism, racism, and hate crime, as well as considering global issues such as human rights, immigration and citizenship.

3) ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

These topics investigate the contributing factors to the climate emergency, such as extreme weather events, emissions and plastic pollution, alongside the potential solutions, such as green energy, transport, and recycling.

4) GLOBAL ISSUES & POLITICS

These topics encourage discussion about current world events, from conflict to globalisation to interdependence, in addition to UK-based political situations, such as Brexit, general elections, and the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

5) SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

These topics take a closer look at scientific discoveries, technological advances, and our personal relationship with devices (such as mobile phones) and online platforms (such as social media).

6) COMMUNITY & CHARITY

These topics consider the values and principles underpinning our society, including citizenship (e.g. multiculturalism), charity & altruism (e.g. homelessness), and community action (e.g. youth groups).

7) CRIME, JUSTICE & EXTREMISM

These topics introduce significant societal issues such as gang culture, knife crime, and modern slavery, as well as providing a broader understanding of the role of the authorities & the law and the part these have to play in tackling political divisions, extremism, and conspiracy theories.

8) JOBS, ECONOMY & EDUCATION

These topics span questions around careers and employment, financial education, the economy and continuing education, while simultaneously encouraging further consideration of personal aspirations and life chances.

9) CULTURE, MEDIA & THE ARTS

These topics celebrate a range of cultures and heritages (including language, food & drink, sport and British "institutions"), but also provide a space in which to consider the role of the media and entertainment industries in how these are represented.

Each week, we also map to a range of other curriculum areas as part of our weekly Curriculum Guides. You can find out more about these areas and the associated criteria on your Teacher Dashboard.