

OLDHAM YOUTH COUNCIL



Make Your Mark 2016 Report



1 INTRODUCTION

Every year the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) holds a UK-wide ballot called ‘Make Your Mark’, where all young people, 11 – 18, can vote on what they feel is important in their lives and what they think Members of the Youth Parliament should campaign on for the year ahead. The UK Youth Parliament is managed by the British Youth Council (BYC), a youth-led charity which aims to empower young people across the UK to have a say and be heard.

On the 11th November 2016 Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) came together to debate and decide, at the UKYP House of Commons sitting, the issues to campaign on for the year ahead. The issues debated were the top 5 issues via the ‘Make your Mark’ public vote.

This report details the results of ‘Make Your Mark’ from the Oldham borough down to a school level and includes both the regional and national results.

For 2016 the target for the North West authorities was set at 150,000 ballots with the national target set at 1,000,000 young people to be consulted with.

2 MAKE YOUR MARK ISSUES

As with 2014 and 2015, 10 topics were shortlisted on to the ballots papers by the MYPs from the UKYP manifesto. The topics shortlisted were:

- **Votes at 16.** Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in all elections/referendums.
- **A Curriculum to prepare us for life.** Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics.
- **First Aid Education for All Young People** All young people should learn basic First Aid, on a regular basis, including CPR, and all schools in the UK should have a defibrillator.
- **Mental health.** Services should be improved with young people’s help and mental health education should be compulsory and challenge stereotypes.
- **Transport.** Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all.
- **Stop cuts that affect the NHS.** Funding that affects the NHS shouldn’t be cut. We must keep up vital services to protect young people.
- **Body Image.** More needs to be done to raise awareness on body image issues, particularly the effects of negative body image on mental health. Bullying connected to body image should be challenged, and reduced.
- **Fund our youth services, don’t cut them.** Youth services provide us with vital support, development opportunities and positive activities.
- **Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools.** Let’s raise awareness of sexual harassment in schools so that young people affected don’t suffer in silence and can get support from schools and teachers.
- **Tackling racism and religious discrimination, particularly against people who are Muslim or Jewish.** All young people should work together to combat racism and other forms of discrimination, and ensure we know the dangers of such hatred.

3 BALLOTING

Oldham’s young people had three ways to get involved and have their say.

- Fill in an individual ballot paper, placing a cross in a box as they would in an election.
- Take part in a discussion group with a group leader, such as a teacher, noting how many voted for each topic and completing a tally sheet to record the results.
- Fill in an online ballot form.

In Oldham the first two options were co-ordinated by Oldham Youth Council with our Youth Councillors and support staff contacting the schools and asking them to complete the tally sheets in form time or assemblies. The Youth Councillors then took the individual ballot papers to youth groups and organisations to capture those young people not educated in Oldham or whose school did not participate.

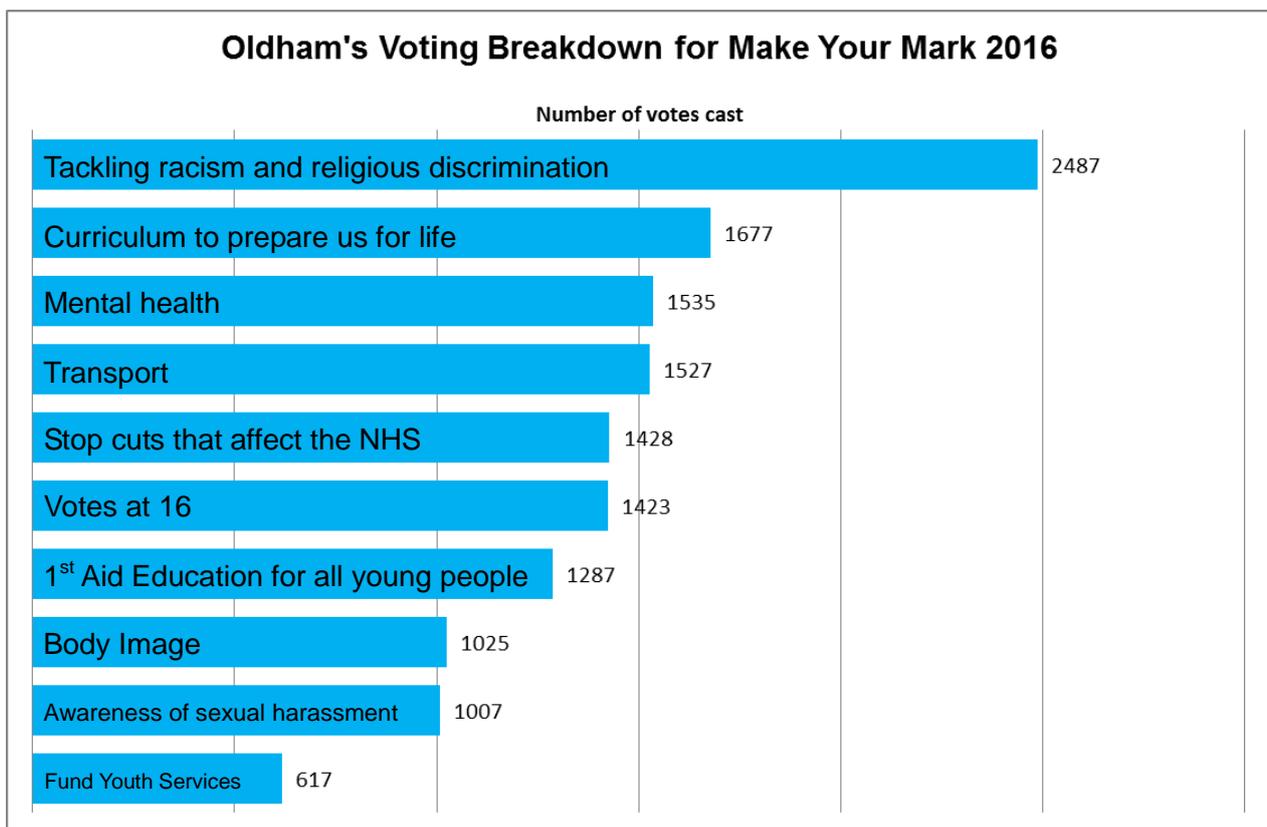
The online ballot option was managed and collected by BYC. The online results for Oldham have been added to this report and represent less than 0.1% of the total votes.

4 OLDHAMS RESULTS

The number of young people consulted as part of ‘Make Your Mark’ in 2015 by Oldham Youth Council was:

14,013

This represents a 58.7 % voter turnout



Oldham Youth Council had 2 Make Your Mark Champions who each gathered more than 1000 ballots. The table below shows who these young people are and their position compared to other champions across the UK.

| UK Position | Name | School | Ballots |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| 24 th | Alex Robinson | Crompton House CofE School | 2,595 |
| 38 th | Andrew Shillito | Oldham College | 1,645 |

5 SCHOOLS BREAKDOWN

In 2016, 17 of Oldham's schools and colleges took part in 'Make Your Mark', 6 more than the previous year. These schools and colleges were:

- Blessed John Henry Newman RC College
- The Blue Coat C of E Secondary School
- Collective Spirit (Oldham)
- Failsworth School
- The GM (University Technical College)
- The Hathershaw College
- Iqra High School
- North Chadderton School
- Oasis Academy Oldham
- Oldham Academy North
- Oldham College
- Oldham Hulme Grammar School
- Oldham Sixth Form College
- The Radclyffe School
- Royton & Crompton School
- Saddleworth School
- Waterhead Academy

Oldham Youth Council would officially like to thank them all for getting involved and helping their pupils to have a voice not only on what happens in Oldham but also the UK. Below are the individual results from each school. The voter turnout statistics were calculated on school's pupil numbers given by BYC.

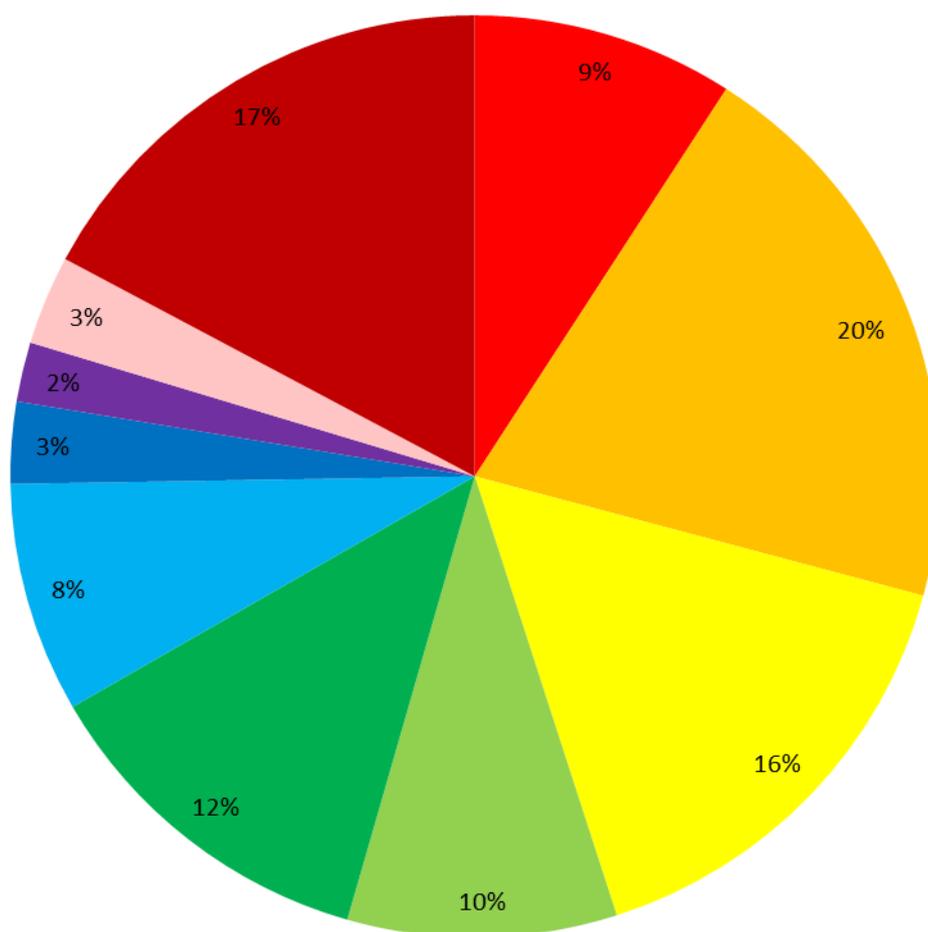
We have produced the results as a poster so that each school can display their individual results to show the student body which issues came out top.

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Blessed John Henry Newman RC College

With 384 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. A Curriculum to prepare us for life
2. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
3. First aid education for all young people
4. Transport
5. Mental health



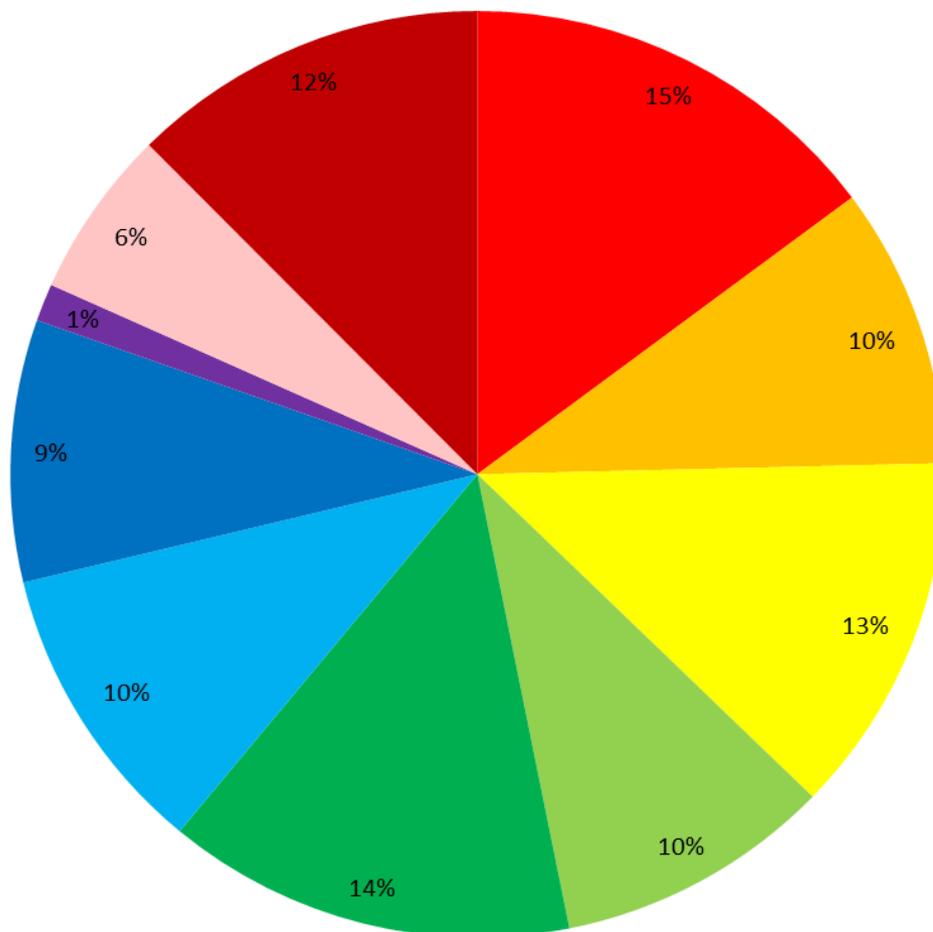
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| ■ Votes at 16 | ■ A Curriculum to prepare us for life |
| ■ First Aid Education for All Young People | ■ Mental health |
| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

The Blue Coat C of E School and 6th Form

With 459 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Votes at 16
2. Transport
3. First aid education for all young people
4. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
5. Stop cuts that affect the NHS



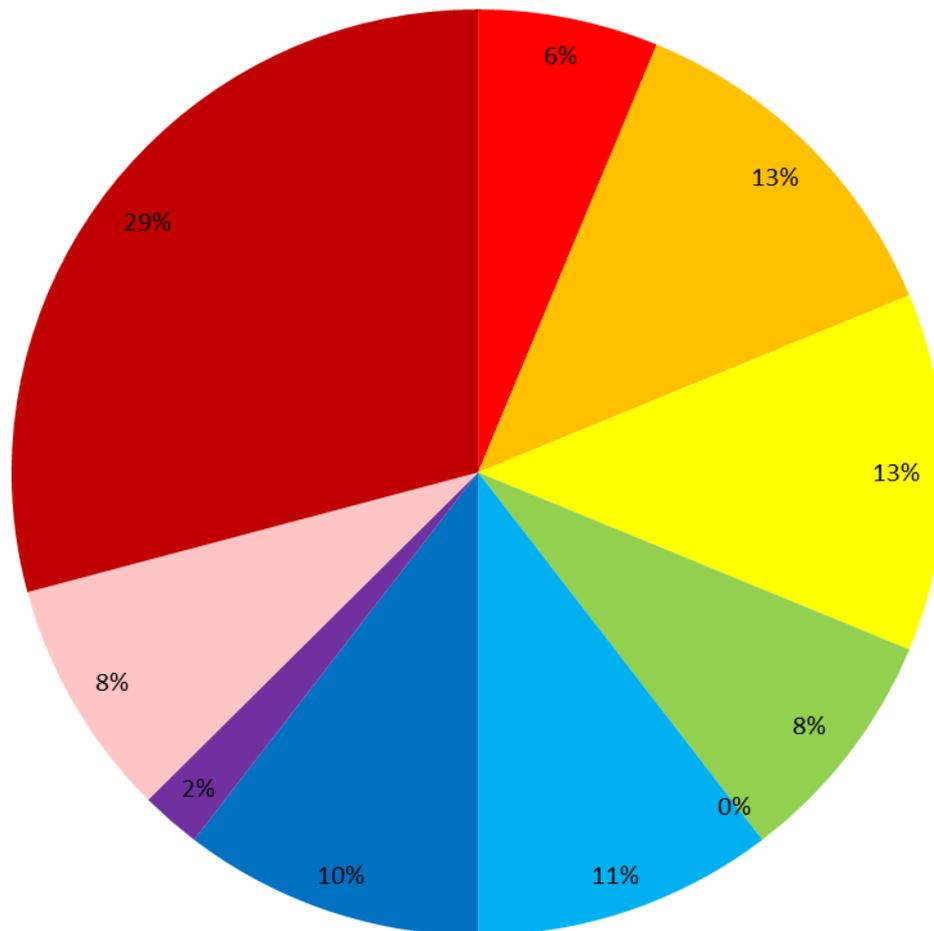
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Collective Spirit (Oldham)

With 48 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. A Curriculum to prepare us for life
3. First aid education for all young people
4. Body image
5. Stop cuts that affect the NHS



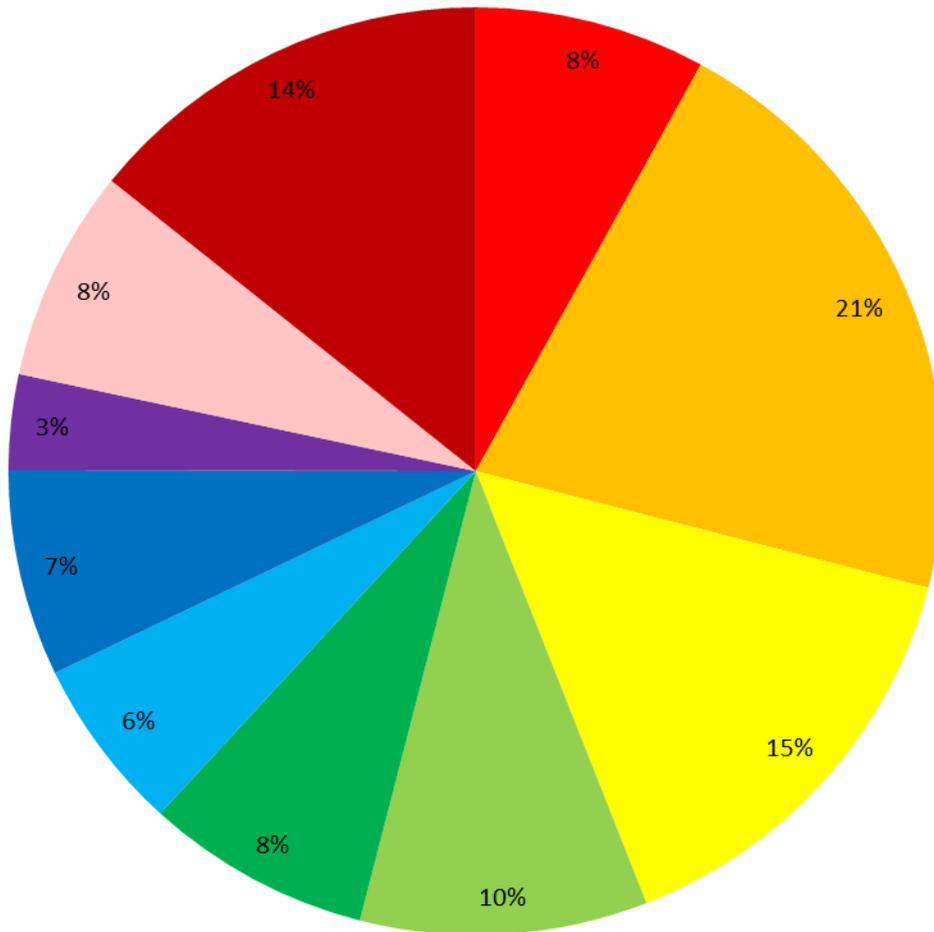
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OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Failsworth School

With 513 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. A Curriculum to prepare us for life
2. First aid education for all young people
3. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
4. Mental health
5. Votes at 16



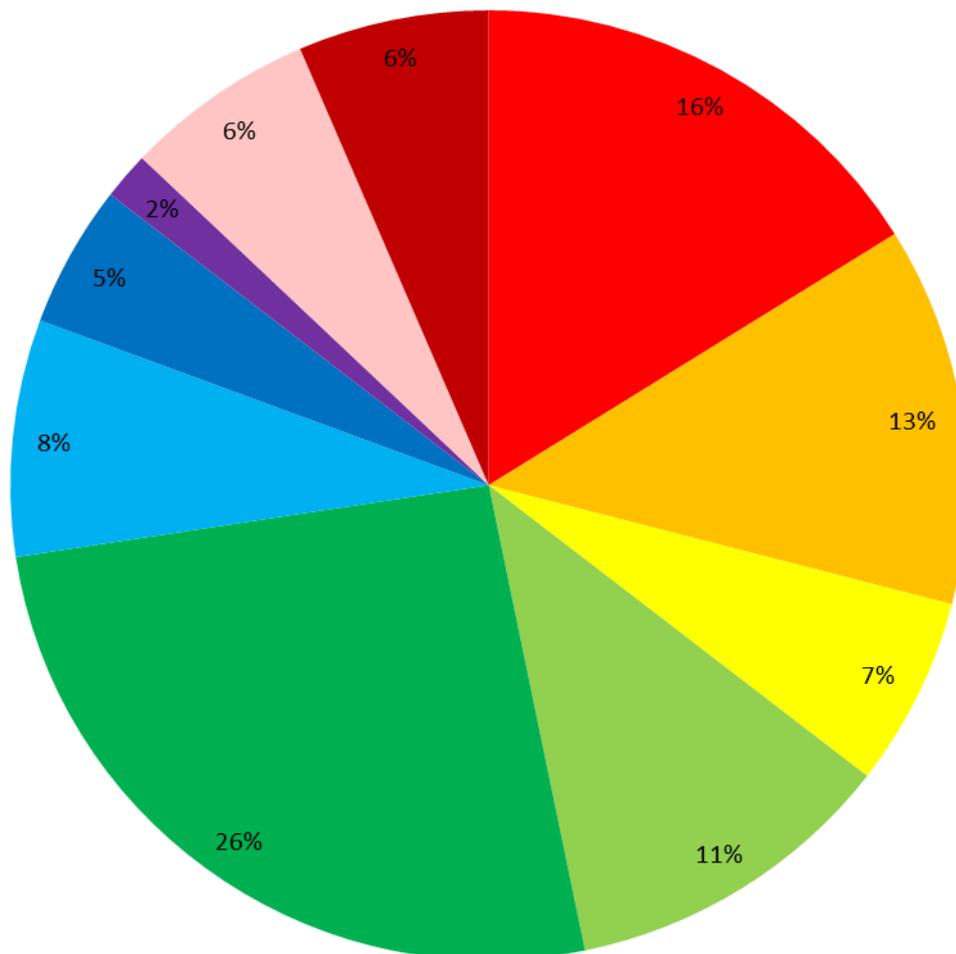
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

The GM (University Technical College)

With 62 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Transport
2. Votes at 16
3. A Curriculum to prepare us for life
4. Mental health
5. Stop cuts that affect the NHS



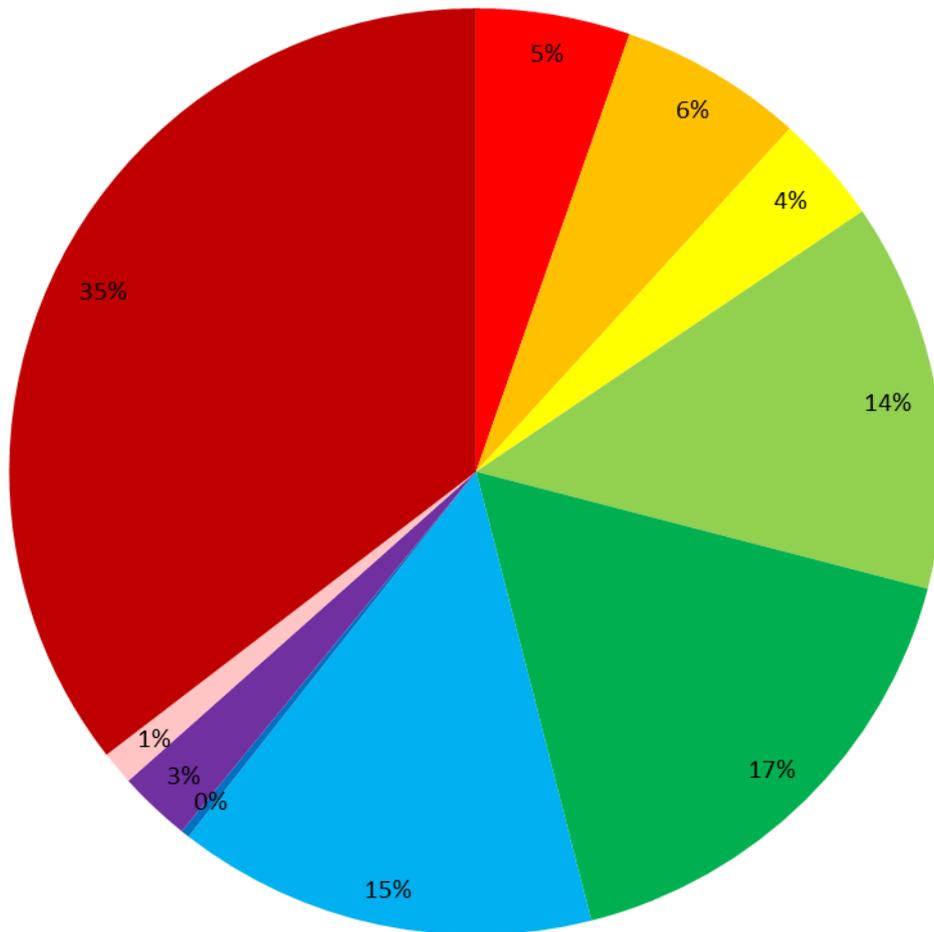
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

The Hathershaw College

With 1032 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. Transport
3. Stop cuts that affect the NHS
4. Mental health
5. A Curriculum to prepare us for life



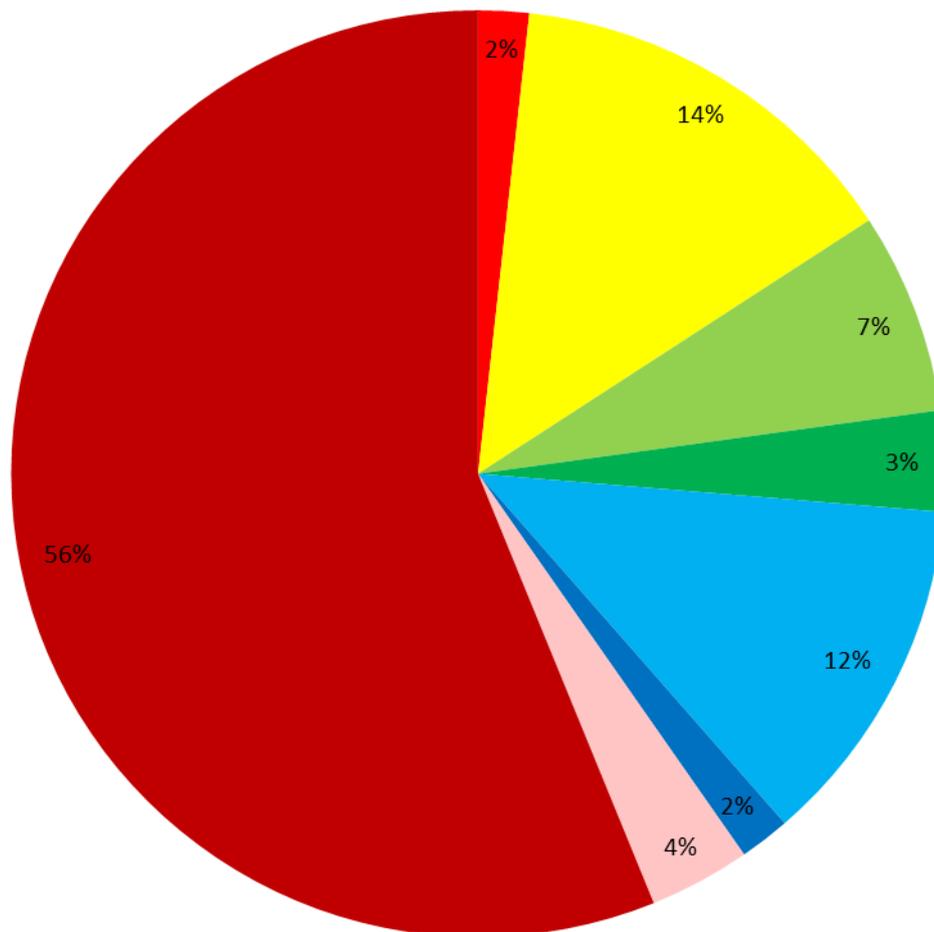
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Iqra High School

With 57 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. First aid education for all young people
3. Stop cuts that affect the NHS
4. Mental health
5. Raising awareness of sexual harassment in school



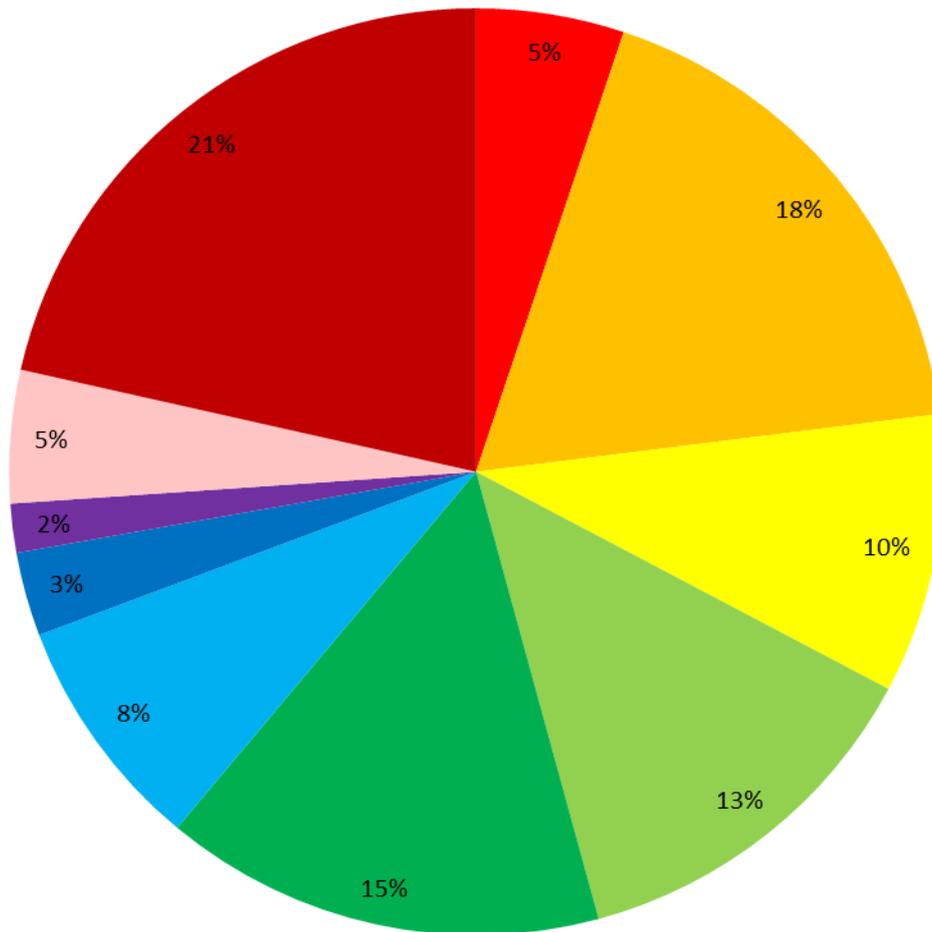
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

North Chadderton School and 6th Form

With 1230 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. A Curriculum to prepare us for life
3. Transport
4. Mental health
5. First aid education for all young people



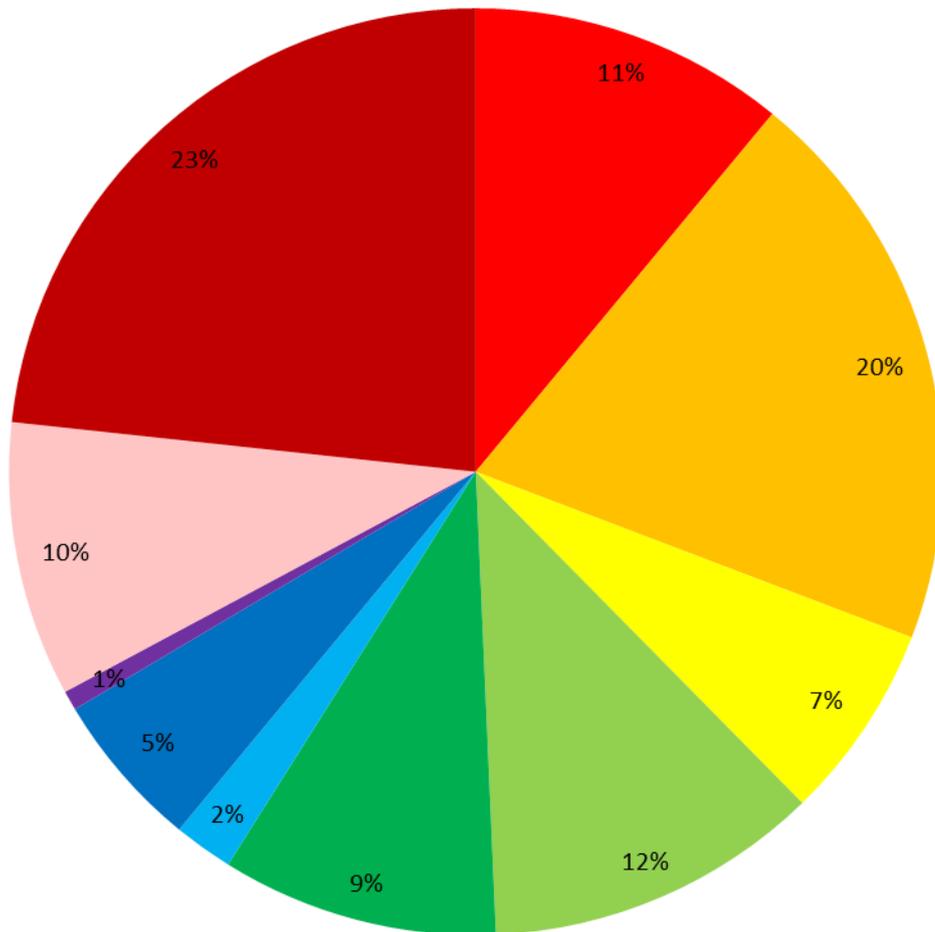
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| ■ First Aid Education for All Young People | ■ Mental health |
| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Oasis Academy Oldham

With 147 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
 2. A Curriculum to prepare us for life
 3. Mental health
 4. Votes at 16
 5. Raising awareness of sexual harassment in schools
- Transport



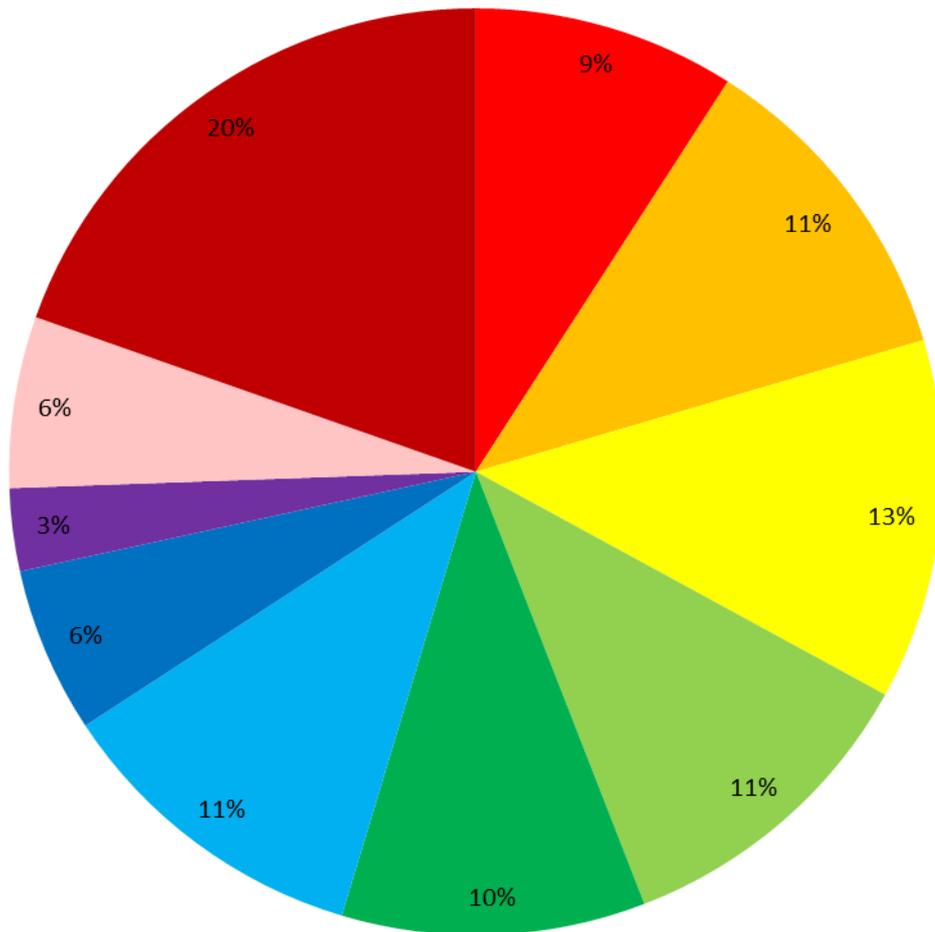
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Oldham Academy North

With 485 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. First aid education for all young people
3. A Curriculum to prepare us for life
4. Mental health
4. Stop cuts affecting the NHS



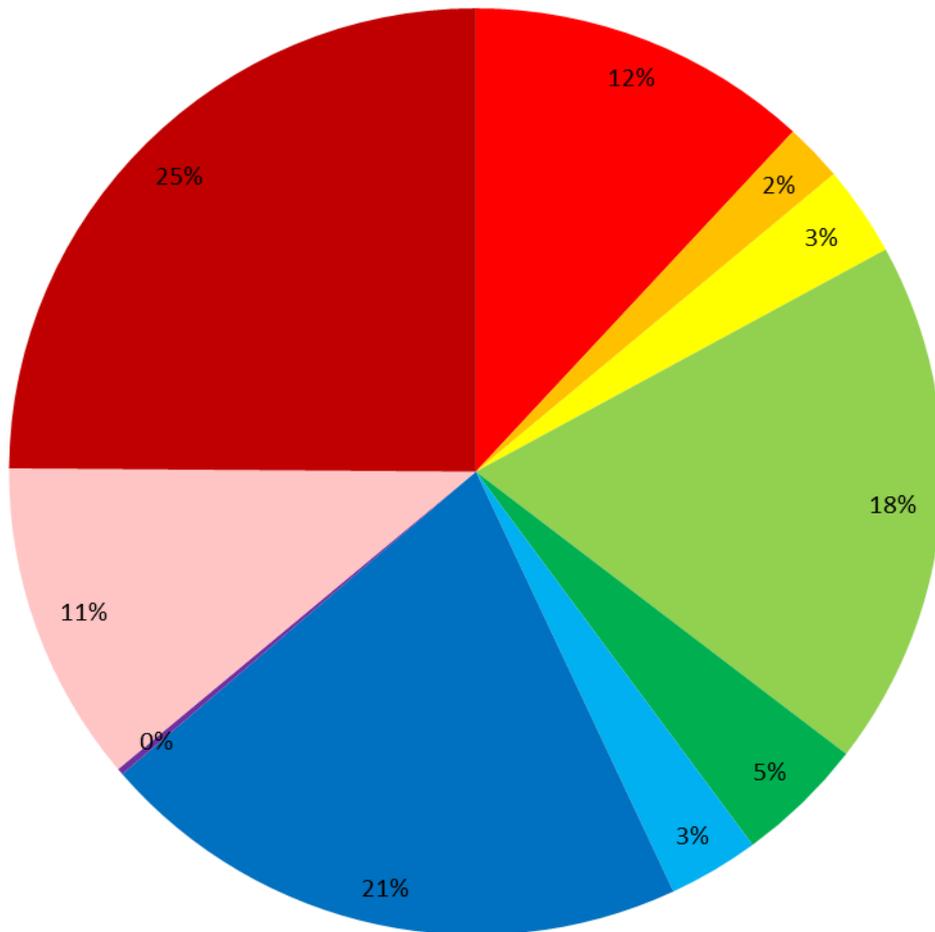
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Oldham College

With 446 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. Body Image
3. Mental health
4. Votes at 16
5. Raising awareness of sexual harassment in schools



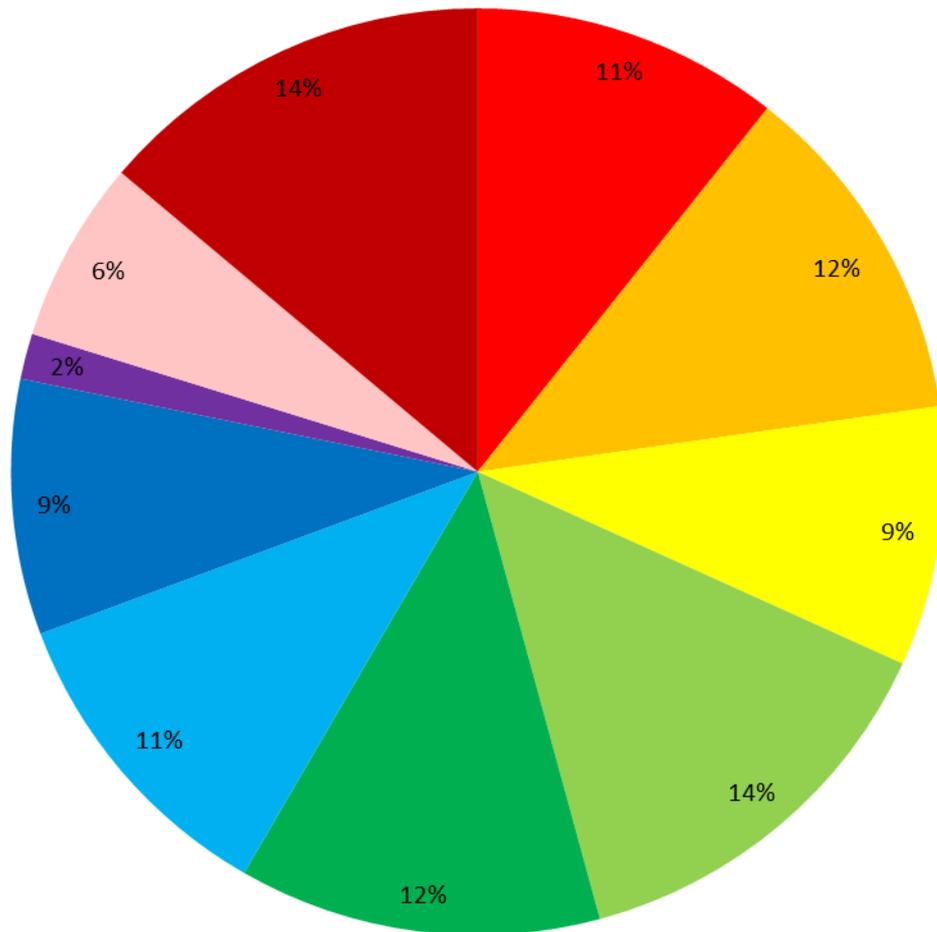
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Oldham Hulme Grammar School

With 629 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Mental health
2. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
3. Transport
4. A curriculum to prepare us for life
5. Stop cuts that affect the NHS



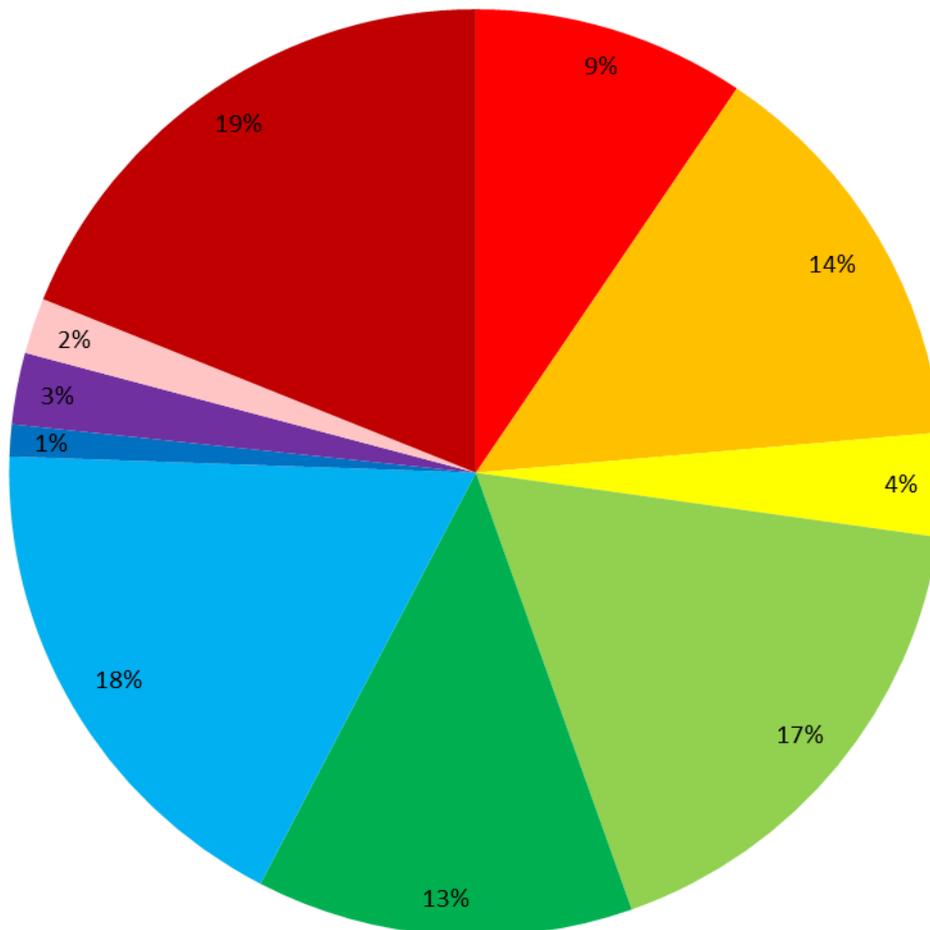
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Oldham Sixth Form College

With 720 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. Stop cuts that affect the NHS
3. Mental health
4. A curriculum to prepare us for life
5. Transport



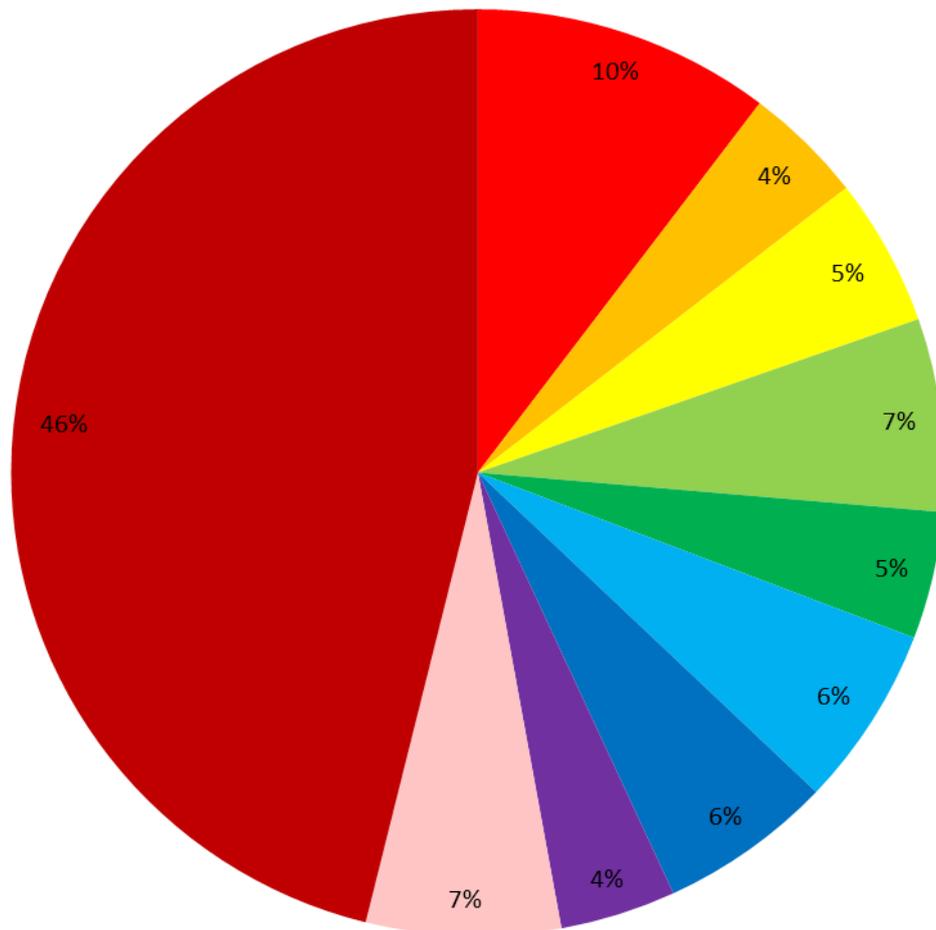
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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

The Radclyffe School

With 698 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. A curriculum to prepare us for life
3. Mental health
3. Raising awareness of sexual harassment in schools
5. Stop cuts that affect the NHS



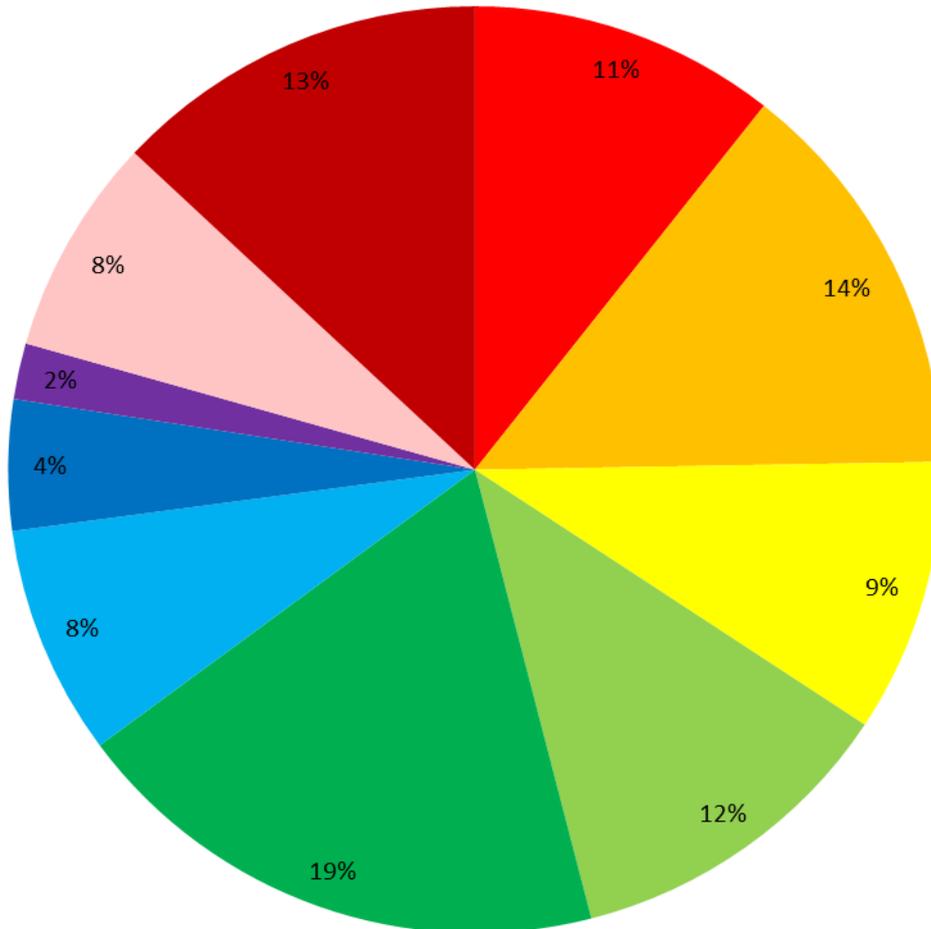
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| ■ First Aid Education for All Young People | ■ Mental health |
| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Royton & Crompton School

With 461 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Transport
2. A curriculum to prepare us for life
3. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
4. Mental health
5. Votes at 16



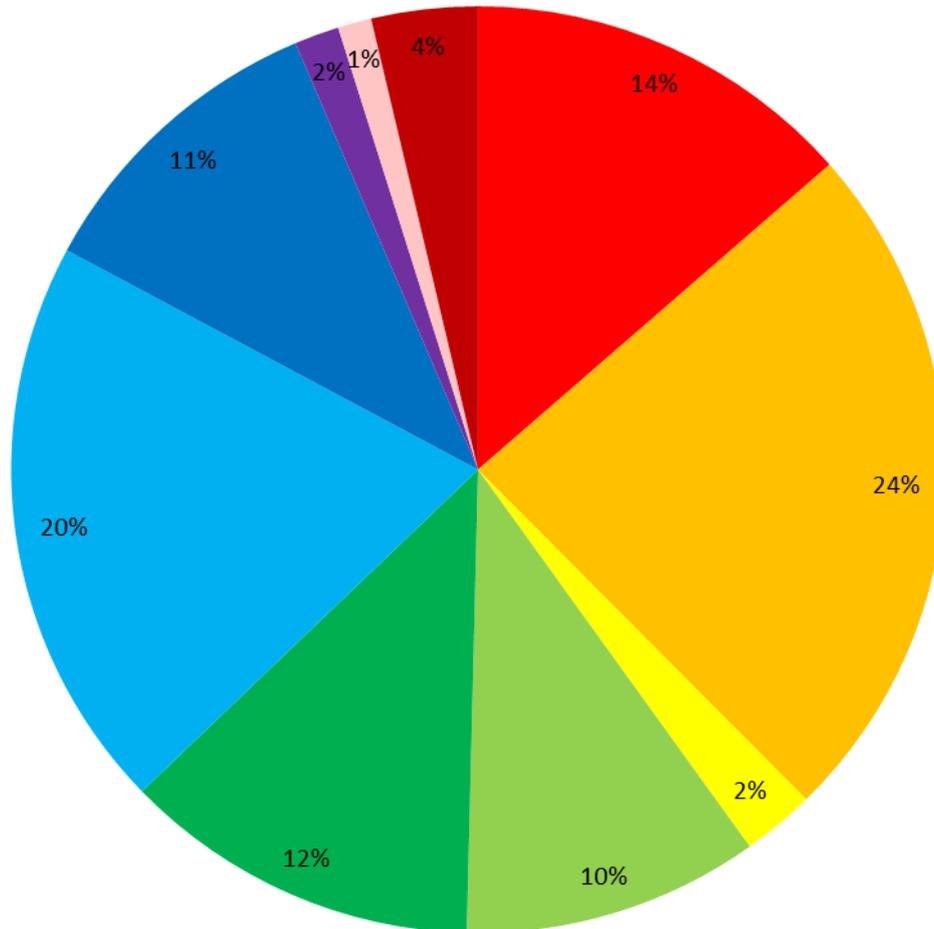
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| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Saddleworth School

With 1032 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. A curriculum to prepare us for life
2. Stop cuts that affect the NHS
3. Votes at 16
4. Transport
5. Body Image



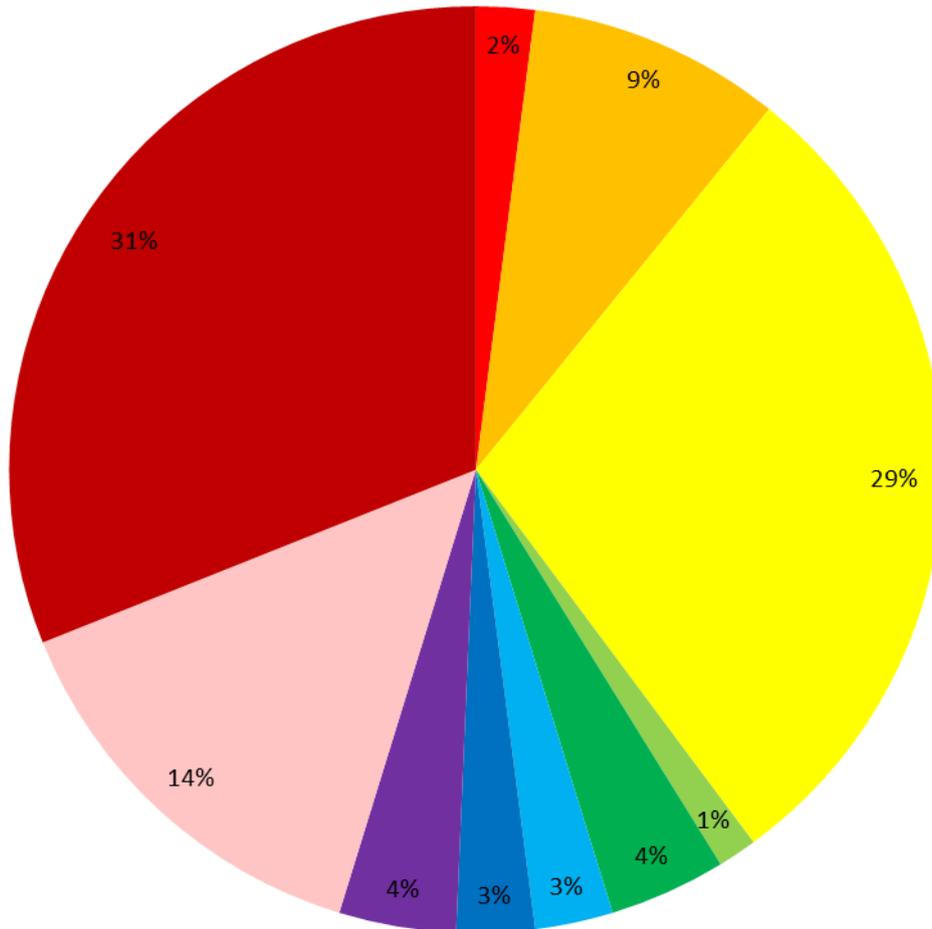
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OLDHAM SCHOOLS RESULTS

Waterhead Academy

With 148 completed ballots the top 5 issues voted for by students were:

1. Tackling racism and religious discrimination
2. First aid education for all young people
3. A curriculum to prepare us for life
4. Raising awareness of sexual harassment in schools
5. Transport



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| ■ Transport | ■ Stop cuts that affect the NHS |
| ■ Body Image | ■ Fund our youth services, don't cut them |
| ■ Raising Awareness of Sexual Harassment in schools | ■ Tackling racism and religious discrimination |

6 REGIONALLY

The regional total for the North West smashed the target of 150,000 ballots with

194,091

This was the highest number of ballots for a region across the UK and also represents the highest turnout across the UK with of 31.91%.

The top 5 issues for the North West are:

- 1. A curriculum to prepare us for life**
- 2. Transport**
- 3. Tackling racism and religious discrimination**
- 4. Stop cuts that affect the NHS**
- 5. Votes at 16**

Oldham was a high performer in the region getting the 4th highest number of completed ballots coming behind Lancashire, Manchester and Cumbria. Oldham also got the 2nd highest turnout of voters, behind Manchester, with 58.73% showing that once again Oldham's young people want to be engaged in politics.

7 NATIONALLY

The number of young people consulted as part of 'Make Your Mark' in 2016 across the UK was:

978,216

The top 5 issues that young people have said affect them today are:

- 1. A curriculum to prepare us for life**
- 2. Tackling racism and religious discrimination**
- 3. Transport**
- 4. Votes at 16**
- 5. Stop cuts that affect the NHS**

Oldham was also a high performer nationally. Our total ballots of 14,013 were the 14th highest out of the 224 Authorities nationally and our turnout of 58.7% was the 7th highest across the UK.

To download a copy of the UKYP Make Your Mark 2016 report or for more information please go to <http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/makeyourmark/>

8 House of Commons Sitting

On 11th November 2016 Amber Powell and Georgia Loynds, as Members of Youth Parliament for Oldham, joined the other UK representatives at the House of Commons to debate the top 5 issues. After a full day of lively debates, presided over by the Speaker of the House John Bercow, the MYPs voted on which of the issues would form their UK-wide campaign for 2016 and also choose which issue would become the devolved campaign (England only) for 2016.

The United Kingdom Youth Parliament, UK wide campaign for 2016 will be **Votes at 16**.

The United Kingdom Youth Parliament, devolved campaign (England only) for 2016 will be **A curriculum to prepare us for life**.

9 2017 – What can be improved?

For the third year running we have consulted with over half of the borough's 11-18 population. This is an amazing achievement and one that Oldham Youth Council is immensely proud of. Our main goal this year was to increase school participation and we had a target of including at least 16 out of Oldham's 24 educational establishments eligible to take part in Make Your Mark. We were able to work with 17 schools and colleges (all but one of Oldham's main stream secondary schools) this year and would again like to thank the pupils, teachers and support staff that made Make Your Mark such a success.

Working from last year's recommendations at the beginning of June we sent letters out to Head Teachers and Principals, as well as contacts we already had in the schools. This was earlier than in previous years. In the letters, support was offered by means of meeting with teachers to work out how best to run the voting system in school. Unfortunately this offer was not taken up before the summer break. After the summer, however, both support staff and Youth Councillors contacted teachers in the schools that they thought would either be the person to organise 'Make Your Mark' or would be able to pass on details of a teacher responsible for this. From this contact, in most cases, we were able to meet with the teachers and organise balloting their students.

Although school participation increased from 45% to 70%, the turnout of young people only rose by less than 1%. This small increase in turnout appears to be due to a drop in voting at 4 establishments. Had these schools and colleges gained results similar to last year we would have polled over 16,000 young people which would have been a turnout of 67%.

Unfortunately, at one school everything appeared to be running smoothly but the teacher leading on Make Your Mark left on paternity leave which meant having to start the process again, leaving a short period of time to ballot students. We understand that this is one of those situations that is hard to plan for and would like to thank the teaching staff for doing everything they could to run Make Your Mark.

At the 3 other establishments the number drop could be due to support from Oldham Youth Council. Although Youth Councillors attended these schools and colleges they were recently elected Youth Councillors with no experience of running Make Your Mark. Although training was given this was done informally during Youth Council meetings and it may not have been explicit enough for some. These issues were not noticed until ballots started to come back at which point there was again little time to increase numbers.

We also acknowledge that the borough's special schools did not take part, we believe for several reasons. Firstly the Youth Councillor's, that in the past have been the link, have now either left school or the Youth Council. This meant that our only communication was via the emails and the letters we sent. Pupils at these particular schools may have needed easy read versions or even been polled in a completely different way to our mainstream schools. In the correspondence it was not made clear enough that changes could be made in the ways pupils could get involved, which probably lead to the lack of response.

For Make Your Mark 2017 we have the following targets:

- Maintain engagement from the 17 establishments who took part this year
- Increase the numbers of schools taking part to 20 by
 - Engaging the 1 remaining mainstream school
 - Working with Oldham's 3 special schools on how Make Your Mark can be delivered to pupils with learning difficulties
- Increase participation at all existing schools and colleges

Reflecting back on the results, how schools took part and the targets set we will make the following recommendations for Make Your Mark 2017.

1. Set up a Oldham Youth Council newsletter informing schools of what events and projects are coming up through the year
2. Develop a network of 'democracy' contacts throughout the schools
3. Work with Barrier Breakers (Oldham's Youth Forum for Young People with Disabilities) and staff from Newbridge School, Newbridge Learning Centre and Hollinwood Academy to develop ways in which Make Your Mark can be more accessible.
4. Although the tally system works well in form times some teachers may find it difficult to programme in. The recommendation is to see how Make Your Mark can be delivered to large groups such as assemblies capturing whole year groups in one go.
5. Develop a full training session for Youth Councillors going into schools asking them to run Make Your Mark ballots
6. Link it with International day of democracy 15th September 2017. This hopefully will give schools a theme to work around and plan for.

10 Special Mention

We would finally like to make special mention of The Radclyffe School who also fully immersed themselves in the Make Your Mark. Not only did the school take part in voting, achieving 698 ballots, as part of their PHSE curriculum they also wrote speeches on why they thought the issue they chose was important. Youth Councillors were then lucky enough to have the 5 best speeches presented to them at Full Youth Council Meeting. We would like to send a special thank you to all of the Radclyffe School pupils who took part in Make Your Mark and wrote speeches and the staff who supported them to do so.