

SOCIAL MEDIA BAN

QUICK POLL RESULTS

Views from
Guernsey,
Jersey, the
Isle of Man &
Gibraltar





Do you think the social media ban for under 16s should be introduced in your island?

JERSEY



GUERNSEY



ISLE OF MAN



GIBRALTAR



About the Poll:

Open to residents aged 16+ in each island between 17-22 June 2026.

Completed by: 839 in Jersey; 849 in Guernsey; 619 in the Isle of Man; and 70 in Gibraltar.



Do you think the social media ban for under 16s should be introduced in Jersey?

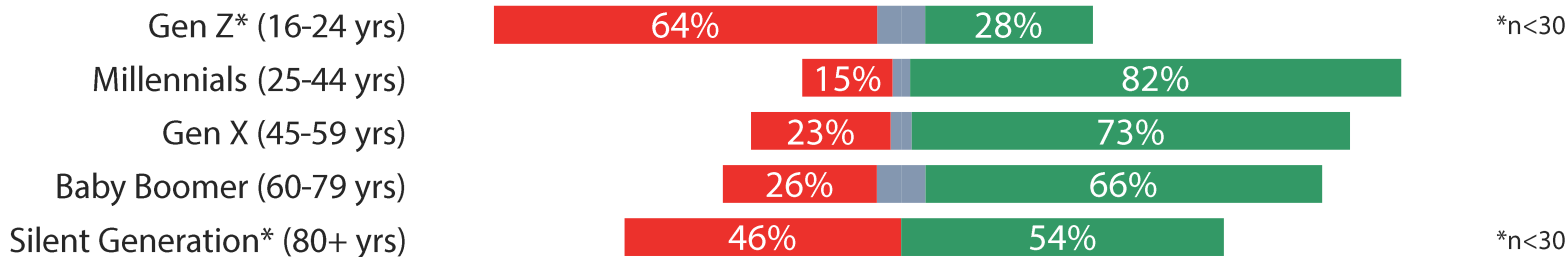
No
23%

Don't know
5%

Yes
72%



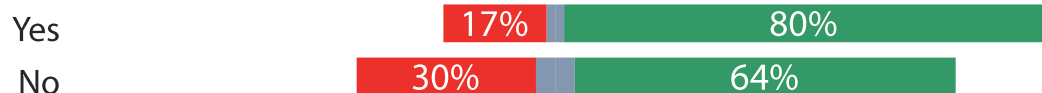
Generation



Gender



Has children <18 yrs



About the Poll:

The poll was completed by 839 Jersey residents aged 16+ between 17 and 22 June 2026.

Respondents were asked: "Do you think the survey social media ban for under 16s – using the same model as the UK and Australia – should be introduced in Jersey?"

33%

of parents
said their child/ren
under 10 years
use social media*

79%

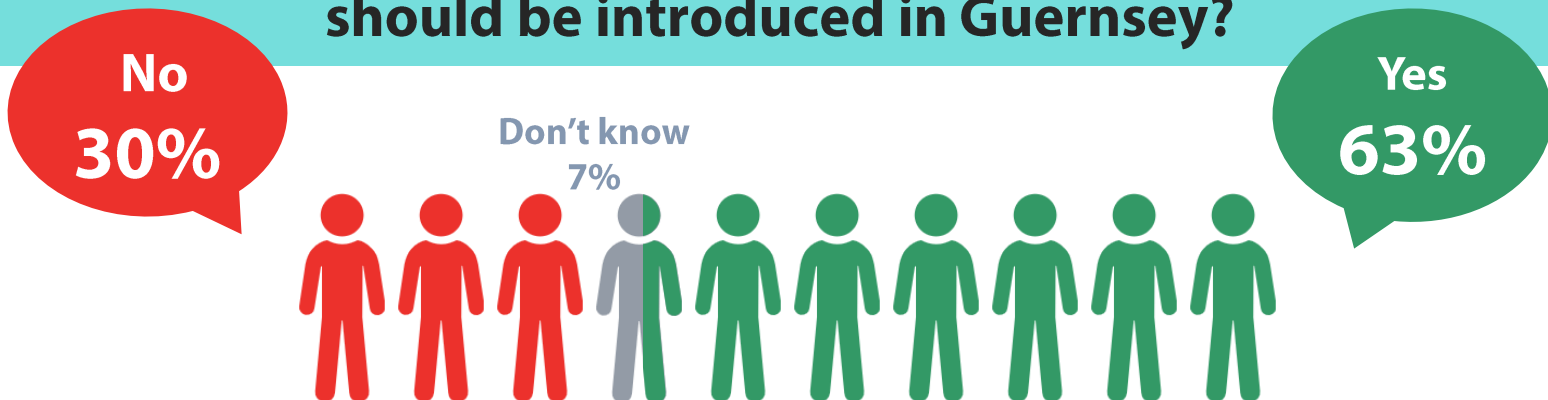
of parents
said their child/ren
aged 10-15 years
use social media*

* Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook and X

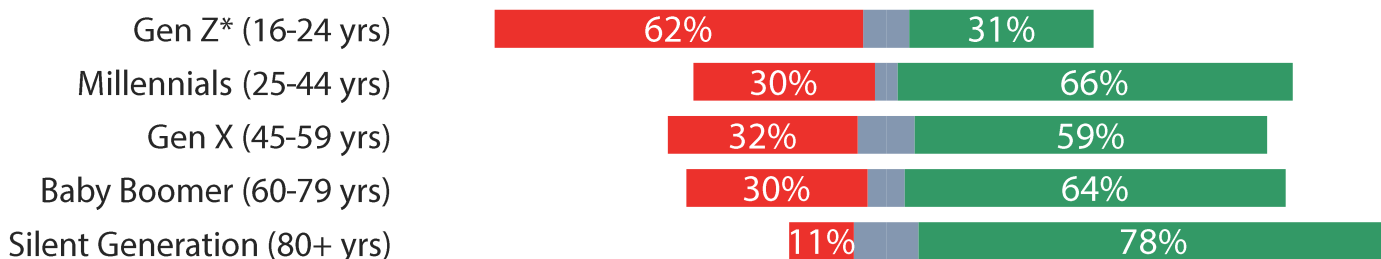
Age Group	n	Gender	n	Any children	n
16-24 yrs	25	Males	287	Yes, under 18 years	442
25-44 yrs	239	Females	538	Yes, 0-9 yrs	176
45-59 yrs	343	Prefer to self describe	1	Yes, 10-15 yrs	338
60-79 yrs	210	Prefer not to say	9	Yes, 16-17 yrs	80
80+ yrs	13			No	371
Prefer not to say	5			Prefer not to say	2



Do you think the social media ban for under 16s should be introduced in Guernsey?

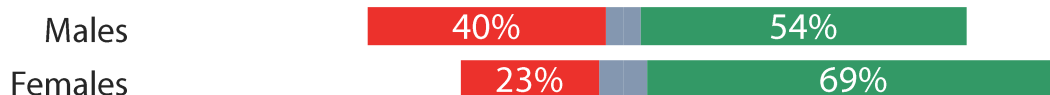


Generation

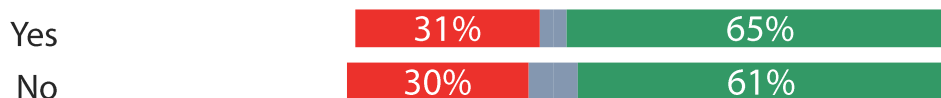


*n=<30

Gender



Has children <18 yrs



About the Poll:

The poll was completed by 849 Guernsey residents aged 16+ between 17 and 22 June 2026.

Respondents were asked: "Do you think the survey social media ban for under 16s – using the same model as the UK and Australia – should be introduced in the Bailiwick of Guernsey?"

32%

of parents
said their child/ren
under 10 years
use social media*

80%

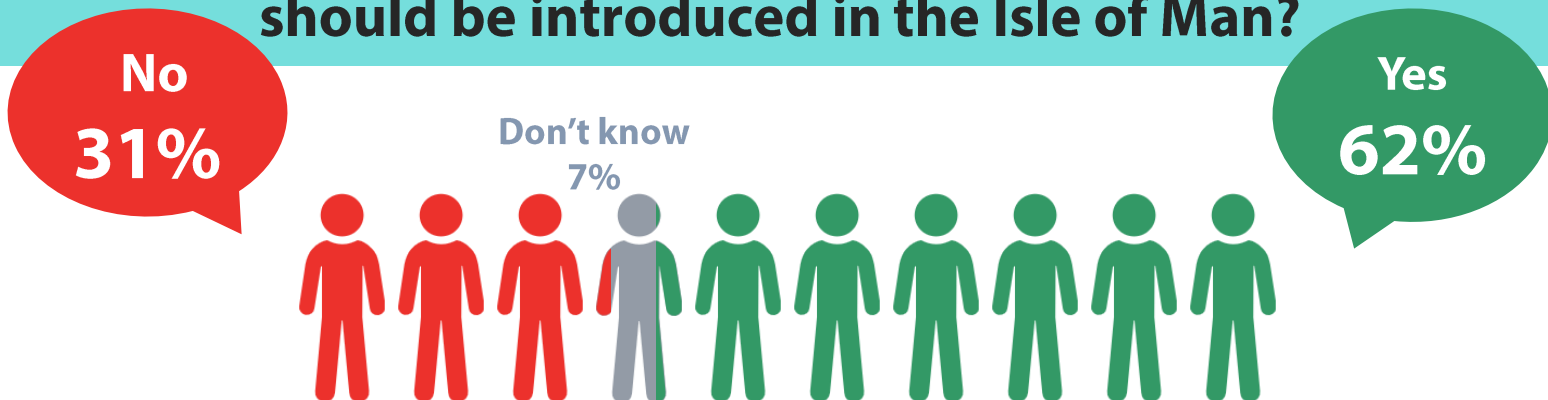
of parents
said their child/ren
aged 10-15 years
use social media*

* Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook and X

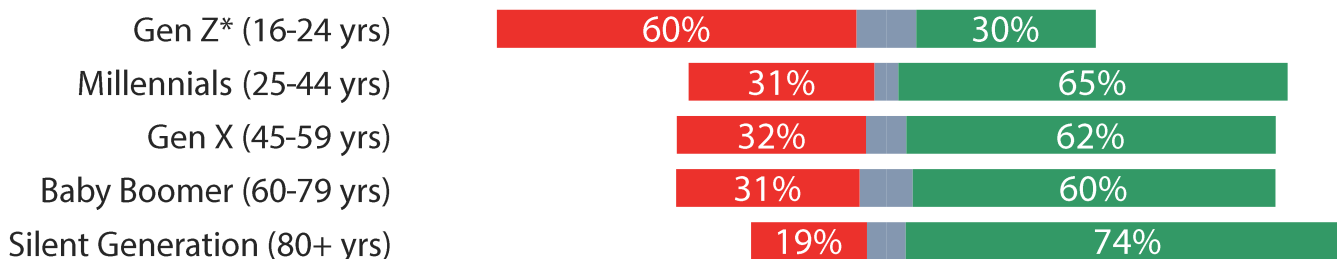
Age Group	n	Gender	n	Any children	n
16-24 yrs	13	Males	327	Yes, under 18 years	289
25-44 yrs	185	Females	511	Yes, 0-9 yrs	128
45-59 yrs	284	Prefer to self describe	5	Yes, 10-15 yrs	190
60-79 yrs	324	Prefer not to say	6	Yes, 16-17 yrs	50
80+ yrs	37			No	545
Prefer not to say	6			Prefer not to say	10



Do you think the social media ban for under 16s should be introduced in the Isle of Man?

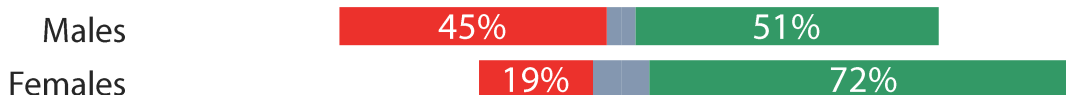


Generation

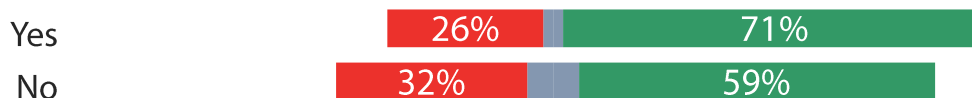


*n=<30

Gender



Has children <18 yrs



About the Poll:

The poll was completed by 619 Isle of Man residents aged 16+ between 17 and 22 June 2026.

Respondents were asked: "Do you think the survey social media ban for under 16s – using the same model as the UK and Australia – should be introduced in the Isle of Man?"

37%

of parents
said their child/ren
under 10 years
use social media*

93%

of parents
said their child/ren
aged 10-15 years
use social media*

* Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook and X

Age Group	n	Gender	n	Any children	n
16-24 yrs	10	Males	269	Yes, under 18 years	150
25-44 yrs	100	Females	341	Yes, 0-9 yrs	69
45-59 yrs	193	Prefer to self describe	1	Yes, 10-15 yrs	80
60-79 yrs	281	Prefer not to say	8	Yes, 16-17 yrs	42
80+ yrs	31			No	451
Prefer not to say	4			Prefer not to say	13



REASONS FOR SUPPORT

Do you think the social media ban for under 16s should be introduced?

a) Protecting Children

- Widespread concern about, cyberbullying and harassment; grooming and predators; and exposure to inappropriate or harmful content.
- Children seen as too young to manage these risks

b) Mental Health & Development

- Strong belief that social media: damages mental health (anxiety, depression, low self-esteem); creates unrealistic expectations and comparison; and harms brain development, attention, and focus.

c) Addiction & Screen Time

- Platforms described as: highly addictive; and designed to encourage “doom scrolling”
- Children seen as: “Welded to phones”; and losing sleep, concentration, and motivation”

d) Loss of Childhood & Social Skills

- Frequent theme: children should be: playing outside; and socialising face-to-face
- Concerns about: declining communication skills; and reduced creativity and independence

e) Support for Parents

- A ban would: reduce peer pressure; “Level the playing field”; and help parents enforce rules without conflict.
- Many say current controls are hard to enforce alone

f) Distrust of Tech Companies

- Strong criticism that platforms: fail to protect users; and prioritise profit via addictive algorithms
- Ban seen as necessary because industry won't self-regulate

“Children need to be protected”

Support despite challenges

- Enforcement will be difficult and children may still bypass restrictions
- However, many argue a ban would still change social norms and reduce overall usage

Common Additional Suggestions

- Ban smartphones under 16 (or 18);
- Restrict phones in schools
- Allow limited/controlled use (e.g. YouTube for education)
- Combine ban with education and guidance
- Stronger regulation of platforms



REASONS TO OPPOSE

Do you think the social media ban for under 16s should be introduced?

a) Seen as Unenforceable

- Many said children will easily bypass restrictions (VPNs, fake ages)
- It would be ineffective, symbolic, or a waste of resources

b) Parental Responsibility

- Parents, not government, should control children's use. Ban seen as: "State parenting" or overreach

c) Privacy & Digital ID Concerns

- Enforcement would require age verification for everyone. Potential loss of privacy; data breaches; surveillance or "digital ID by the back door"

d) Risk of Unintended Consequences

- Encourage use of riskier platforms; and encourage secrecy and unsafe behaviour
- Social media becomes more attractive if it is "forbidden"

e) Loss of Benefits

- Useful for education (especially YouTube)
- Important for community, including for vulnerable groups (e.g. neurodivergent, LGBTQ+ youth)

f) Focus Should Be on Tech Companies

- Responsibility lies with platforms
- Better moderation; algorithm regulation; and fines and accountability

Preferred Alternatives

- Digital literacy, with parental controls and guidance
- Partial restrictions (e.g.: <13 or <14 bans; school-only)
- YouTube should be treated differently as can be educational

"It will not stop access"

"Parents should be responsible"

CONCLUSION

Widespread Agreement there is a problem

- Social media poses real risks to children:
- Concerns about mental health, bullying, and harmful content
- Enforcement is a key challenge

Dividing point is how best to solve it:

- Who should be responsible, parents, government or tech companies