

KANTAR

Attitudes towards LGBTQ+ community and rights in UK society study

Key findings

September 2020



Methodology

For more information on the survey data please email public@kantar.com

A total of 2363 interviews were conducted online among a representative sample of the UK population, aged 16 and over, between 8 July and 6 August 2020. Interviews were conducted using the Kantar Public Voice panel. Any use of this research must cite Kantar as the source.

Comfort with community

Overall high levels of comfort within UK society towards LGBT community, albeit with higher figures for LGB than T.

Kantar research reveals comfort levels from UK society with:

- 94% comfortable (81% totally / 13% fairly) - A neighbour who was a gay or bisexual man
- 94% comfortable (81% totally / 14% fairly) - A neighbour who was a lesbian or bisexual woman
- 86% comfortable (65% totally / 21% fairly) - A neighbour who was a transgender person

- 96% comfortable (83% totally / 13% fairly)* - A manager who was a gay or bisexual man
- 97% comfortable (81% totally / 16% fairly)* - A manager who was a lesbian or bisexual woman
- 88% comfortable (65% totally / 23% fairly)* - A manager who was a transgender person

*Asked only of those working

Comfort with authority

Overall slightly lower levels of comfort within UK society towards LGBT community in positions of authority such as doctor or Prime Minister compared to community figures such as neighbour:

Kantar research reveals comfort levels from UK society with:

- 91% (75% totally / 16% fairly) - A doctor or GP who was a gay or bisexual man
- 90% (76% totally / 15% fairly) - A doctor or GP who was a lesbian or bisexual woman
- 79% (59% totally / 20% fairly) - A doctor or GP who was a transgender person

- 89% (74% totally / 15% fairly) - UK Prime Minister who was a gay or bisexual man
- 88% (73% totally / 15% fairly) - UK Prime Minister who was a lesbian or bisexual woman
- 76% (58% totally / 18% fairly) - UK Prime Minister who was a transgender person

Comfort with community – age as key factor

Some interesting differences in demographic groups:

Tolerance of LGBT people in these roles decreases with age, with most significant gaps between age groups with the role of GP (92% of 16-24 year olds comfortable vs 66% of 75+) and Prime Minister (92% of 16-24 year olds vs 65% of 75+)

Average comfort levels for all roles studied:

- 16-24 – 93% NET comfortable / 7% NET uncomfortable
- 25-34 – 91% / 9%
- 35-44 – 90% / 10%
- 45-54 – 87% / 13%
- 55-64 – 80% / 19%
- 65-74 – 77% / 21%
- 75+ - 75% / 23%

Comfort with community – religious affinity as key factor

Some interesting differences in demographic groups:

Tolerance of LGBTQ+ people in these roles is different between different levels of religious affinity:

Average comfort levels for all roles studied:

- Religious and practising 80% comfortable / 19% uncomfortable
- Religious but not actively practising 87% comfortable / 12% uncomfortable
- Not religious 89% comfortable / 11% uncomfortable

Education and Curriculum: context

From September 2020, new Religious and Sex Education Curriculum comes into place in England. It stipulates that relationship curriculum is compulsory for primary students and relationship and sex curriculum for secondary students. The guidance says that pupils need to understand "that some people are LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender], that this should be respected in British society, and that the law affords them and their relationships recognition and protections".

The guidance adds: "Schools should make decisions about what it is appropriate to teach on this subject and when, based on the age, development and religious backgrounds of their pupils, and should involve their parents in these decisions."

The change to curriculum follows tensions between parents, schools and the government on the curriculum, and was a result of consultation with multiple rights groups and organisations.

Education and Curriculum – key findings

Our research finds that the majority of people in the UK disagree that it's inappropriate for teachers to teach children at 6 or 12 years old about LGBTQ+ rights, but society is generally more comfortable with it when a child is older.

Kantar research reveals:

- “It’s inappropriate to teach a six year old that being gay is acceptable” – 60% disagree / 38% agree
- “It’s inappropriate to teach a twelve year old that being gay is acceptable” – 69% disagree / 30% agree
- “It’s inappropriate to teach a six year old that some people identify as a different gender than the one they were born as” - 59% disagree / 40% agree
- “It’s inappropriate to teach a twelve year old that some people identify as a different gender than the one they were born as” – 65% disagree / 34% agree

Education and Teachers

In addition to some tensions regarding changes to curriculum, there are also some differences revealed amongst parents and their comfort levels towards teachers from the LGBTQ+ community.

Kantar research reveals comfort levels amongst parents* in society on:

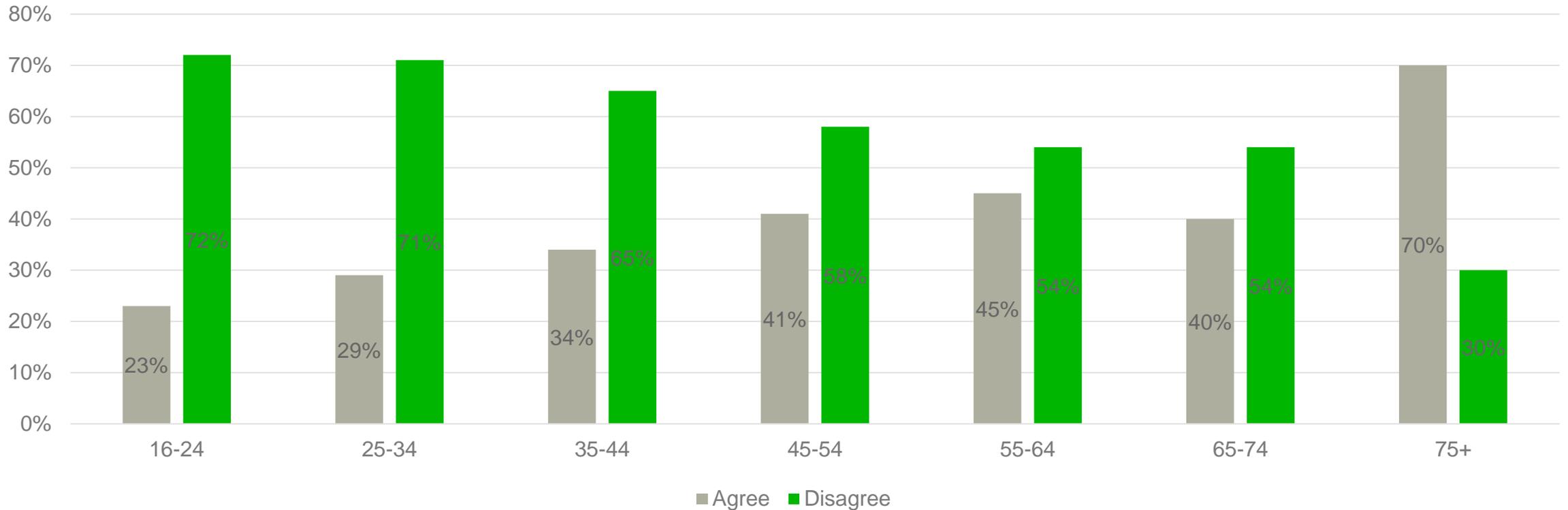
- If their child had a teacher who was a gay or bisexual man – 92% comfortable
- If their child had a teacher who was a lesbian or bisexual woman – 91% comfortable
- If their child had a teacher who was a transgender person – 77% comfortable

*Question only asked of respondents with children 16 and under

Education – age as a key factor

Younger people are much more accepting of teaching LGBTQ+ rights to children than older people.

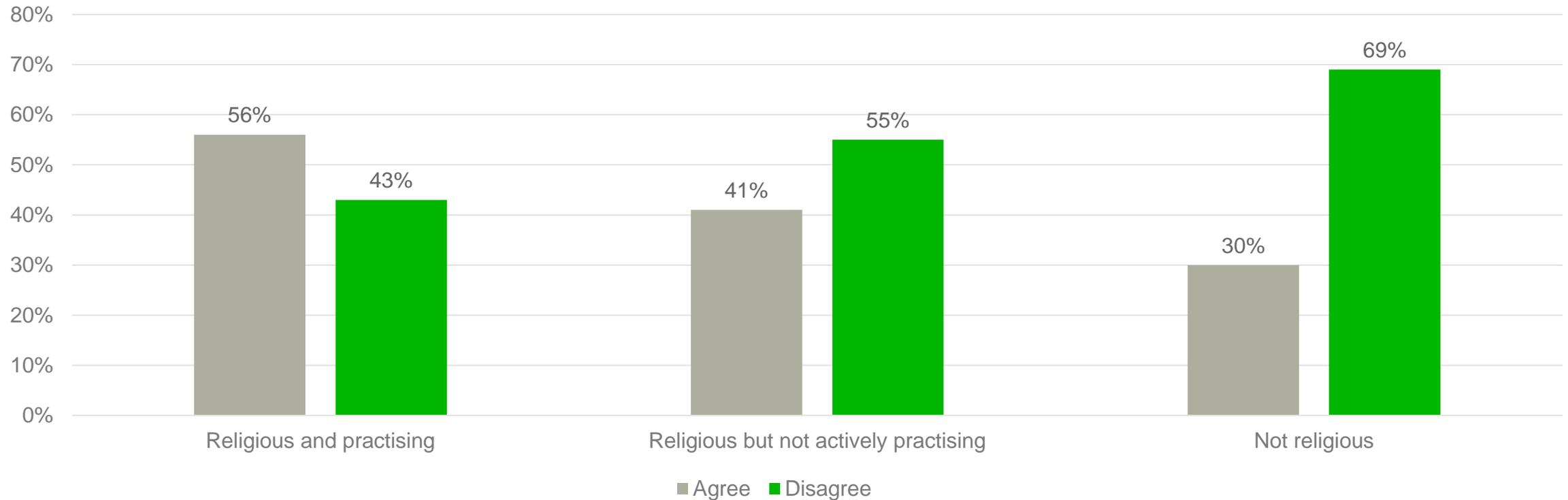
“It’s inappropriate for a school teacher to teach a six year old that being gay is acceptable”:



Education – religion as a key factor

People practising religion are likely to be less progressive in their views of what is appropriate to teach children.

“It’s inappropriate for a school teacher to teach a six year old that being gay is acceptable”:



Conversion Therapy

Conversion therapy, which is currently legal in the UK, is the practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation from gay or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological or spiritual techniques.

With more than [250,000 people signing an online petition](#) calling for conversion therapy to be made illegal, it will now be considered for a debate in Parliament. In 2018, the government pledged to ban conversion therapy as part as its LGBTQ+ equality plan but this has not yet happened.

Kantar research reveals:

- **60% of people think it should be banned**
- **35% of people think it should remain legal**

Conversion Therapy – key factors

People aged 25-54 are most likely to say that conversion therapy should be banned, with the youngest and eldest demographic groups less likely to say so:

16-24 - Banned 57%; remain legal 40%; Not sure / prefer not to say 4%

25-34 - Banned 62%; remain legal 37%; Not sure / prefer not to say 2%

35-44 - Banned 64%; remain legal 30%; Not sure / prefer not to say 5%

45-54 - Banned 63%; remain legal 32%; Not sure / prefer not to say 5%

55-64 - Banned 59%; remain legal 34%; Not sure / prefer not to say 7%

65 – 74 - Banned 58%; remain legal 31%; Not sure / prefer not to say 11%

75+ - Banned 50%; remain legal 40%; Not sure / prefer not to say 10%