KIDS HAVE THEIR SAY!

At *The Week Junior*, we know young people have strong opinions about the world around them. To learn more about what they think, we worked with the polling company YouGov for our seventh annual Junior Voices survey. Of the 722 kids ages 8 to 14 who responded, most said their generation will change things for the better and many agreed on action steps to take. As one respondent put it, "Kindness is always the way to make the world a better place." Here's what else kids had to say.

When you think about the future of our country, you think it needs...

42% Major changes

39% Some changes

6% Very few changes

2% No changes

GETTY IMAGES. YOUGOV PLC SURVEYED 722 CHILDREN AGES 8–14 ONLINE FROM SEPTEMBER 8 TO SEPTEMBER 22, 2026. FIGURES HAVE BEEN WEIGHTED AND ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF US CHILDREN AGES 8–14.

What changes do you think would make the biggest positive difference in the world?



1. Make sure everyone has enough food, a safe place to live, and the things they need
2. End wars and help people live in peace
3. Protect the planet, animals, and nature
4. Make sure schools are safe
5. Reduce bullying and unkind behavior

87% of you think kids should have a say on issues that affect them

86% said adults should listen to kids more

82% think it's important for kids to know about events around the world

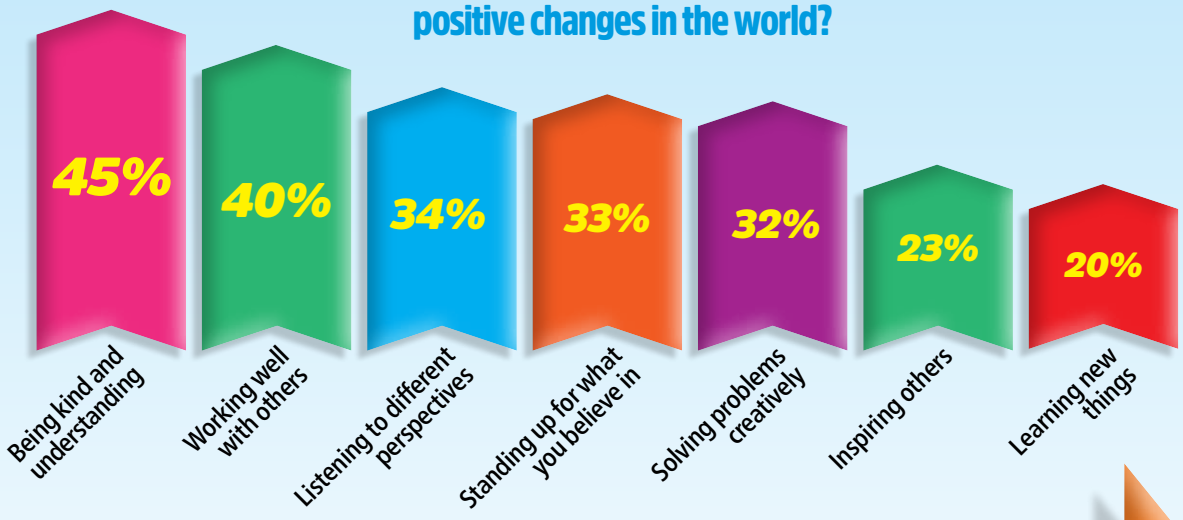
82% want to inspire other kids to make positive changes

74% are comfortable expressing your opinion if you disagree with something

70% think your generation will make the world a better place

The Power of Change

What skills do you think future leaders will need to make positive changes in the world?



What do you think kids can do to make a difference in the world?

- **66%** Help others when you can
- **46%** Speak up about issues you care about
- **42%** Volunteer in your community
- **39%** Work to protect the planet
- **26%** Discuss important issues with others, even if you disagree
- **10%** Contact elected officials to express your view

Who or what inspires you to make changes in the world?

- **76%** Family members
- **46%** Friends, classmates, or peers
- **40%** Teachers and what you learn in school
- **27%** Other adults in your life (like coaches and club leaders)
- **26%** Books or stories
- **21%** News stories

What gives you the most hope for the future?

1. Seeing acts of kindness
2. People working together to solve problems
3. Believing my generation can make things better
4. People standing up for what they believe in
5. Hearing positive news stories
6. Having opportunities to make a difference myself

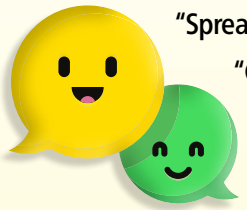
If you could tell the adults of the world one thing, what would it be?

"Kids have important ideas about the future we will inherit."

"See the good in people, and think about how they feel."

"We can believe different things and still get along."

"We can all make a difference because small efforts add up to a tide of change."



"Start working with each other to protect our planet and our animals."

"Spread kindness around like confetti."

"Give us more opportunities to learn, speak up, and help make positive changes in the world."

"Listen more, judge less, and leave the world a little better than you found it."