

Campaign for Real Education: News Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL MID-DAY FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2013

Ipsos MORI study shows 8 in 10 (81%) say schools should be required to teach about both World Wars

As the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I approaches, an Ipsos MORI study of 973 adults aged 15+ in Great Britain, commissioned by the Campaign for Real Education, shows that eight in ten people say that the National Curriculum for History should require schools to teach about both World Wars (81%).

Overall, 82% say that World War I should be taught, while 84% believe the National Curriculum for History should include a requirement to teach about World War II.

England's new National Curriculum for History will be taught in schools from September 2014. It lists the World Wars as "Examples (non-statutory)" that teachers "could include" in their history lessons. Neither the Welsh National Curriculum nor the equivalent Scottish "Curriculum for Excellence" place any requirement on schools to teach about either war.

Only 7% say that the National Curriculum for History should not require schools to teach about either of the wars.

There was a noticeable difference between London and most of the rest of Britain. In London only 58% believe World War I and World War II should be required teaching, with 67% believing there should be a requirement to teach about World War II. However, 9% of Londoners say that neither of the World Wars should be required teaching, with 22% responding that they don't know whether this should be the case.

Those saying both wars should be required teaching in the Midlands (74%) was greater than in London (58%), yet lower than in the North (88%) and South (87%) where support was strongest. In Scotland, 80% of people say that the History curriculum should require schools to teach about World War I and II

The belief that the teaching of both World Wars should be made a requirement is fairly equally held between males (80%) and females (81%).

Support for the requirement to teach about both wars is significantly greater amongst those aged 45 and above (86%). Among 15-24 year olds living in Britain, 70% feel schools should be required to teach about both wars. The least support was to be found amongst 24- 34 year olds, but still reached 70% for teaching about both wars.

Chris McGovern, Chairman of the Campaign for Real Education, said: "This poll shows that most people in Britain think the National Curriculum for History should require schools to teach about the two World Wars. I encourage people to sign our online petition as we have a

responsibility to ensure that those who gave their lives in the two World Wars in defence of Britain are remembered. It is unacceptable for the new National Curriculum in England to require the teaching of, for example, either West African, Middle Eastern or Central American history, but not about the two World Wars. Similarly, in Scotland, and in Wales, the decision about whether or not to teach about the two World Wars should not be left to the whim of individual teachers.”

Further information: Chris McGovern 01435-83019/07757715145

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- 1. The research was conducted on Capibus, Ipsos MORI's face to face omnibus, between Friday 6th and Thursday 12th December 2013 Questions were asked of 973 adults aged 15+ across Great Britain. The survey data were weighted to be nationally representative of adults aged 15+ in Great Britain. Full data tables are available on request.**
- 2. Of the 973 respondents interviewed 253 were interviewed in the North of England (including North, Northwest, Yorkshire & Humberside), 227 were interviewed in the Midlands (including East and West Mids & East Anglia) 120 were interviewed in Greater London and 223 were interviewed in the South of England (including South East and South West but excluding London). 104 were interviewed in Scotland and 46 in Wales.**