

Dear Principal

Sligo Education Centre is delighted to announce that Sligo schools will have the opportunity to participate in the Concern Primary Debates Competition for the coming school year 2021/2022.

Debating is a fun, educational way of encouraging your students to really engage with development topics. Learning to debate teaches students how to apply critical analysis and how to prepare an argument using facts and sound research. It also teaches students valuable communication skills, such as how to deliver a speech and how to effectively defend the points they make.

How do I register my school?

In order to sign up with the Concern Primary Debates you must register with your local education centre www.ecsligo.ie

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS 13TH OCTOBER

What year groups can enter the Concern Primary Debates?

The Concern Primary Debates is suitable for senior primary (4th- 6th class).

How many teams can I enter?

Concern advises that each school enters one team per school. Larger schools may enter more than one team.

How many students can be on a team?

We recommend you have a panel of 6 students. However only 3 students can debate on a team (researchers are not permitted to sit with the three speakers) teachers are free to rotate speakers and researchers.

Where do the debates take place?

Your local education centre will advise you of the location and time of your debate. For 2021/2022, the debates will take place online over Zoom. Debates take place during school hours. Your local centre will be your point of contact during the competition and organise fixtures, debates etc.

Who acts as a chairperson and timekeeper?

We recommend that the proposing school provides the chairperson and time keeper. You will find instructions for both at the back of the handbook. Concern advises that students take these roles.

Who organises adjudicators to mark the debates?

For the local round of debates in Sligo, each school taking part in the debate must provide an adjudicator. For the semi-finals and finals of the county debates, Sligo Education Centre will provide the adjudicators. If your school is providing an adjudicator, please make sure they read the handbook and watch the training video here: <https://www.concern.net/schools-and-youth/debates/adjudicators>

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact angela@ecsligo.ie

Kind regards

Daragh McDaid

Director- Sligo Education Centre