



## Commitment to SCEGGS Co-Curricular Debating – Updated December 2025

Debating is a vital co-curricular activity at SCEGGS that promotes critical thinking, confidence, and effective communication. Just like any team-based pursuit, debating relies on preparation, collaboration, and respect for others' time and effort. Every student's commitment ensures the success of the team and upholds the reputation of our school.

### Why Commitment Matters:

- Debating is not an individual sport, it's a team effort. Absences affect your teammates, the opposition, adjudicators, and the school's standing.
- Consistent attendance at training and competitions is essential for skill development and team cohesion.

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### Expectations for Students

- Attend **all scheduled training sessions, trials, and debates** (including Friday evening inter-school competitions).
- Communicate any unavoidable absence promptly and appropriately.
- **Mobile phones:** school rules apply, no mobiles to be used in training or competition dates.

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### Absence Notification Guidelines

- **Planned Leave:** Parents/guardians must request written permission from **Ms Kottegoda (Secondary)** at least **one week in advance** for any debating fixture or Friday night competition (e.g., school formal events).
- **Illness:** If sick on a school day, a parent/guardian must email or message the **Debating Coordinator** before the debate explaining the absence.
- **Training/Trial Absence:** Notify the Debating Coordinator as soon as possible on the day.
- **Activity Clashes:** If debating conflicts with another school activity (e.g., Musicale, Sports Training, Duke of Ed), students must liaise with both coordinators to negotiate an acceptable solution.

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### Consequences for Non-Compliance

- **Unexplained absence from a debate:** Detention.
- **Unexplained absence from training/trials:** Penalty point.
- **Late arrival to more than two sessions in a term:** Penalty point.
- **Unsatisfactory attendance:** Ineligibility for house points and recognition on reports.