



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.

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.

Absence Notification Guidelines

- **Planned Leave:** Parents/guardians must request written permission from **Ms Kotegoda (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.

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.