



# Leeds Primary Schools Debating Competition 2016

## Outline

Teaching debating skills is a specific requirement of the 2014 national curriculum for English from lower KS2 onwards. Debating is an excellent preparation for persuasive and discursive writing and can also improve pupils' confidence and self-esteem. Not only does it support pupils to express and justify their own opinions, it also provides a platform for them to consider the opinions and feelings of others.

To support and encourage Leeds schools to develop pupils' confidence and debating skills, Childrens' Services will host a city-wide debating competition at the Civic Hall in July which is open to Year 5 & 6 pupils in all Leeds primary schools.

## Description and rules

The competition will be held over three days with all schools being invited to submit a team of three pupils for day 1 which will be held on 12.07.16. Schools who win their debate on day 1 will be invited back to Round 2 on 14.07.16 and the successful schools on this date will be invited to Round 3 and the grand final on Day 3: 20.07.16

Pupils must be in years 5 & 6 to be eligible for this competition. In the interest of closing the gap and raising expectations for vulnerable pupils, there must be at least one pupil premium pupil and one pupil working below age-related expectations in the team of 3 - this cannot be the same person. The school is free to choose the third pupil from within its years 5 & 6 classes.

The topics for the debates will be chosen by Childrens' Services staff and will be communicated to all participating schools in advance of the competition.

## Further information

It is strongly recommended that schools attend the 'Effective Debating Teaching' course on May 23rd at North East Learning Centre in preparation for this competition.

The judging criteria will be shared with all participating schools in advance and the debates will be judged by staff from the Learning Improvement and Voice & Influence Team supported by the Children's Mayor of Leeds

To register for both the competition and/or the course please go to [www.leedsforlearning.co.uk](http://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk). For further information, please contact [therese.osullivan@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:therese.osullivan@leeds.gov.uk)

## Dates & times:

Round 1: 12.07.16 9am to 3pm

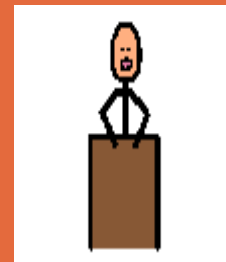
Round 2: 14.07.16 12noon-3pm

Round 3 and final: 20.07.16  
12noon-3pm

**Schools will be given a slot to attend during these times.**

## Venue:

Civic Hall, Leeds, Calverley St,  
Leeds LS1 1UR



## Organiser:

Therese O'Sullivan, Learning Improvement Team

## Additional information:

Cost: £25 registration fee per school. Schools can register free of charge if they attend the course: 'Effective Debating Teaching' on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at North East Learning Centre.

**Sign up deadline for the debating competition:  
10.06.16**

Course code: 011-0716-T017