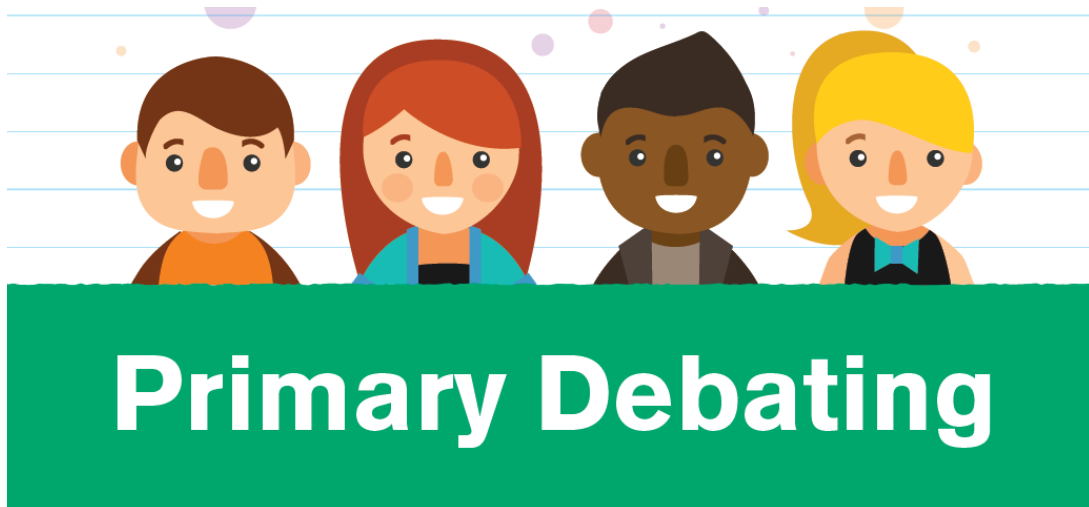


PRIMARY SCHOOL DEBATES  
2018-2019

That's debatable!



MOTIONS

Each Centre is asked to choose from the following list of motions and send to participating schools in their area

Please note- Concern will insist on the below motions being used and not accept additional motions put forward by Education Centres. All motions have a development theme and FREE Concern workshops are available to schools to help them explore some of the below issues. Resources are also available here too <https://www.concern.net/get-involved/schools/resources> If a Centre runs out of motions, please let Concern know and we will provide more.

Below motions have a brief explanation and some research links for each.

**Climate change is not our problem.**

Tips:

Some ideas for defining the motion: Look at the 'our' in the motion. The 'our' could be the citizens of Ireland or even the members of your debates team. Is it really the responsibility of regular Irish citizens to combat the problem of Climate Change or governments and large corporations? On the other hand the consumption levels of individuals (cars, fossil fuels, eating meat) have a huge impact on Climate Change.

Research Links Proposition <http://theclimatelemon.com/individual-collective-fixing-climate-change/>

[https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/page/climate\\_change\\_resource.pdf](https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/page/climate_change_resource.pdf)

Research Links opposition <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/letters/how-to-combat-climate-change-1.3590003>

[https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/page/climate\\_change\\_resource.pdf](https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/page/climate_change_resource.pdf)

## **Genetically modified food is essential in the fight against world hunger**

Tips:

Genetically modified food are foods that have been modified to make vegetables bigger and even increase their nutrient value. There are currently 814 million people who are hungry in 2018. Are GM food a solution to world hunger or will it make the situation worse? Are GM foods essential in the fight against world hunger or is there another solution>

Research Links both Proposition and Opposition

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/what-gmo-food>

<https://www.healthline.com/health/gmos-pros-and-cons>

New York Times – The Opinion Pages: Can Biotech Food Cure World Hunger? (In its ‘Room for Debate’, The New York Times invites knowledgeable outside contributors to discuss news events and other timely issues): [http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/10/26/can-biotech-food-cureworld-hunger/?\\_r=0](http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/10/26/can-biotech-food-cureworld-hunger/?_r=0)

World Health Organisation (WHO) 20 questions on genetically modified foods:

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/biotech/20questions/en/>

## **To be serious about climate change is to give up eating meat**

TIP: Eating meat statistically does contribute to climate change. However it is not just eating meat that contributes to climate change. Many other factors are involved such as fossil fuels etc. The opposition could argue that while reducing meat will help with climate change, it is not the only thing that needs to be done to be ‘serious’ about climate change

Research Links Proposition <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/31/avoiding-meat-and-dairy-is-single-biggest-way-to-reduce-your-impact-on-earth>

<https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/we-wont-meet-climate-change-targets-unless-we-stop-eating-meat/>

Research Links Opposition

<http://www.epa.ie/climate/communicatingclimatescience/whatisclimatechange/>

## **People should be fined for not recycling.**

<http://www.thejournal.ie/poll-recycling-fine-3256219-Feb2017/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-33986530>

## **Irish youth are doing their fair share to end poverty and hunger in the developing world**

### **TIP**

As this motion focuses on Irish Youth- why not conduct research with other students in your school to support your position? Do you know young people who are involved with charities or programmes to help solve poverty and hunger in the developing world? Or do you know no young people who are doing anything to end poverty and hunger in the developing world? Conduct a survey to support your side of the motion!

## **The Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved by 2030.**

### **TIP**

The Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs for short were set up by the UN in 2015. The SDGs are 17 unique goals looking to tackle some of the biggest problems facing the world today from poverty to hunger to lack of education. These goals do not just focus on poor countries in the developing world but all countries from Ireland to Malawi. 193 governments across the world have signed up to commit to these goals. Some people feel that the goals are too ambitious and that there isn't enough money or will from governments to achieve the goals by 2030. Others believe that

Research Links Proposition

[https://www.unicef.org/agenda2030/files/TWWW\\_A4\\_Single\\_Page\\_LowRes\\_English.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/agenda2030/files/TWWW_A4_Single_Page_LowRes_English.pdf)

[https://doj19z5hov92o.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/page/sustainable\\_development\\_resource.pdf](https://doj19z5hov92o.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/page/sustainable_development_resource.pdf)

Research Links Opposition <https://psmag.com/environment/why-are-the-uns-sustainable-development-goals-stalling>

<http://www.devpolicy.org/can-the-sdgs-be-achieved-by-2030-20150924/>

[https://doj19z5hov92o.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/page/sustainable\\_development\\_resource.pdf](https://doj19z5hov92o.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/page/sustainable_development_resource.pdf)

## **Food waste should be made illegal.**

### **TIP**

Ireland wastes one million tonnes of food per year. That works out as each family in Ireland wasting over €700 per year. Food waste has massive environmental impacts also and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest contributor to Climate Change which is then in part wreaking havoc on the lives of the world's poorest. Many people are not aware of the impacts of wasting food so should it be made illegal? It is feasible to make food waste illegal? Or is this issue so important that it should be made illegal? Debate it!

<https://stopfoodwaste.ie/resources/planning-shopping/awareness/>

[https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/page/climate\\_change\\_resource.pdf](https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/page/climate_change_resource.pdf)

[https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/page/sdg\\_12\\_-\\_responsible\\_consumption\\_and\\_production\\_resource\\_002.pdf](https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/page/sdg_12_-_responsible_consumption_and_production_resource_002.pdf)

### **We shouldn't have water charges in Ireland**

Research Links for both sides

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/everything-you-need-to-know-the-dummies-guide-to-water-charges-35620464.html>

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/water/irish-water-crisis/the-sorry-history-of-irelands-water-charges-34659505.html>

Check out two teams battle out this motion here for tips and ideas!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1OAHmLLwlc>

### **Ireland should do away with cars**

TIP

Cars are one of the greatest contributors to CO<sub>2</sub> which in turn is fuelling Climate change. Should Ireland do away or get rid of cars to help reduce the impact of climate change? Or is this too far? How would people get around? Would it be an inconvenience?

Research

Why not do a survey to see which students get lifts to school and which teachers drive to support your points!

### **Today's children will inherit a better world**

TIP

Will the children of today grow up in a better world? What does a better world look like? Happiness? No Poverty? No homelessness? Or have too many mistakes been made by adults in charge that the damage is irreversible? Will children in Ireland grow up to be able to afford a house? Consider these questions and remember to survey your classmates!

