

IP12 Project: SMSC – Debating

On Wednesday 8th February, 6 children from each of the IP12 schools took part in a Debating Competition at Farlingaye High School. The focus of the project was to support our oldest children with their vocabulary and oracy through developing SMSC debating skills within a collaborative learning experience.

Prior to the event the children in their respective schools were taught a two-week unit of work on debating- this was planned and shared between the schools via One Drive; enabling all of the children to receive the same sequence of learning and experience of taking part in a debate.

On the day of the debate, children were split into mixed groups of 8; this supported the collaboration between the children of different schools. Each group was given a proposition and a stance (for or against the proposition). Each group was then given time to prepare for their debates: some children shared their pre-prepared notes; others had an opportunity to research on the internet. Throughout the process, the children were supported by Farlingaye Students, members of their debating club.

Throughout the rest of the day, each debate took place. Each team worked together to deliver their arguments to an audience, which involved the Farlingaye students, IP12 staff and children from the other teams, within a formalised debating structure. At the end of each debate a vote was taken and a winner was announced. The team with the greatest number of points were announced the winners of the competition.

The children had a fantastic day showcasing their oracy skills and collaboration, and were a credit to the IP12 schools. We are looking forward to building on from the successes of the event in our Debating Competition in Spring 2024.