

FIRST NEWS' SPEECH-WRITING COMPETITION IS HERE!



by editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE

EVERYONE cares about something.

I want more to be done for animals and nature, for example.

But what do you think about a lot? Like me, it might be something to do with the environment. Or it could be about feeling safe either online or on our streets, it might be school life, mental health, having more money, better things to do in your free time, or you might be worried about refugees.

● Whatever it is, *First News* wants to hear from you.

And, because it's a general election year when the country votes for the next Government, we want your voices to be heard **not** just by us. We're going to make sure that people in positions of power hear you loud and clear, too. Even though you don't get a vote, you do have a voice.

That's why, today, we are launching our Speech Your Mind competition for you to get your say about something that really matters to you.

● What do you have to do?

Your speech can be anywhere between 200 and 500 words. You can write it down or say it out loud in a recording – just get a trusted adult to send it to us online at first.news/speechcomp, where you can also find out more about the competition.

● What else can we tell you?

There will be four age groups: under 9; 10 to 12; 13 to 15; and 16 to 18.

An important panel of judges will read, or listen to, your speeches – including the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza.

● What's the prize?

Winners in each age group will be invited to deliver their speeches at a special ceremony in London. They will also receive a £50 Amazon voucher.

● When's the closing date?

26 April 2024.

FIND OUT MORE AND ENTER!

Go to first.news/speechcomp

Please note: Travel is not included in the prize. For full terms and conditions, visit first.news/speechcomp.

HEALTH
CARE

FAMILY

ANIMALS

BULLYING

NATURE
LOSS

CLIMATE
CHANGE

MENTAL
HEALTH

SCHOOL
LIFE

SAFETY

WAR

POVERTY

SPORTS