



Ask a Justice: FAQs

Who can take part?

Accredited teaching institutions (schools or colleges) for Years 11 to 13 in England and Wales, Years 12 to 14 in Northern Ireland, and S5 and S6 students in Scotland can take part in the Ask a Justice Programme. This programme is not open to independent schools.

What equipment/technology do we need?

- Laptop or computer with a webcam and good quality speakers.
- Reliable internet.
- Projector or TV screen (this will enable the entire group to have a better view of the session).
- Microsoft Teams account and up-to-date version of the application.
- Ethernet cable – this is essential as session over Wi-Fi will not provide the quality experience, we are hoping to give both yourselves and the Justices.

How should we set up the room?

You may want to arrange the room, so the students are sitting facing the direction of the screen (computer/projector), and place a chair in front, for the student asking a question. This will allow the Justice to see everyone clearly.

Please consider the following when planning:

- How many students will be attending and where they will be positioned?
- 10 students should ask questions.
- Positioning the webcam so that people asking questions can be seen by the Justice.
- Making sure that all students can see the screen and hear the session clearly.
- Lighting – is there enough natural or ambient lighting to illuminate the room, will sunlight shine on the screen or in people's eyes, etc?
- Background noise – can outside sounds be minimised?
- Is it likely that there will be any interruptions, such as people entering the room unexpectedly or planned fire drills?

What steps do we need to take before the session, to make sure we are prepared?

Once your application has been approved:

- Ensure that you have all the equipment required for the session.
- Be online and available to receive a test call at the specified date and time.
- Work with 10 students to compile one question each to put to the Justices. During a 30-minute session, Justices can only respond to 10 questions, sent to the Education Team at least two weeks in advance. When you provide the questions, please ensure that the plan is in the order in which your students will put their questions to the Justice.

How many people can take part?

Each 'Ask a Justice' session will require 10 students with a question each, with a maximum of 35 students in the room when the session is taking place. These parameters are recommended to optimise student engagement during the session. A teacher must be present in the room for the duration of the session.

Can we invite members of the press to the session?

To ensure that we maximise the time that students have speaking to a Justice, without any distractions, we kindly ask that you do not arrange and media coverage or invite journalists to the session.

You are welcome to invite coverage after the session, sharing details with members of the press or public.

Can we film the session or take photographs?

'Ask a Justice' sessions are a private discussion between a Justice, students, and their teachers. As such, we ask that they are not recorded by filming or photographing throughout.

Should you wish to take a photo as a record of the session or to share via social media/your website/with the press afterwards, this may be requested **in advance**.

Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are at the Court's discretion.

If permission is given, a photo opportunity may be scheduled at the end of the session and within the 30-minute slot allocated to your school.

How should students address the Justice?

Prior to your session, a member of the Education team will be in touch to let you know which UK Supreme Court Justice you will be speaking to. You should refer to a justice as Lord or Lady followed by their name. For example, "Lady Rose" or "Lord Sales."

How will the session work?

At the beginning of your session the Justice will introduce themselves and give a very short introduction, before inviting the first person to come forward with their question.

We recommend that each student should come to the laptop/computer in turn and ask their question and then remain there while the Justice answers so they can engage directly, while still being visible to the other students via the TV screen/projector.

What happens if we have internet issues on the day?

If there are any issues with internet connectivity on the day, the Supreme Court will reschedule your session. It is also important that you provide a telephone number which is accessible on the day of your IT test and session so if there are any issues with the internet, you can be contacted quickly to try and resolve or suggest re-arranging.

How are schools selected to take part?

Schools are selected based on their application responses. Priority will be given to applications from educational institutions who have not visited or participated in an education programme at the Supreme Court before. Priority is also given to those located at a considerable distance from the London area (Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales). In England, schools from the following areas of multiple deprivation are encouraged to apply: Middlesbrough; Liverpool; Knowsley; Kingston upon Hull; Manchester; Blackpool; Birmingham; Burnley; Blackburn with Darwen and Hartlepool.

If you have any other questions, please contact us through the 'Contact Us' form on the website - [General Enquiries and Feedback - UK Supreme Court](#)

Alternatively, please feel free to speak to one of our team by calling 020 7960 1500/1900.