

Student Voice Awards



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

The Student Voice awards promote student voice by recognising and celebrating high quality and inspiring practice.

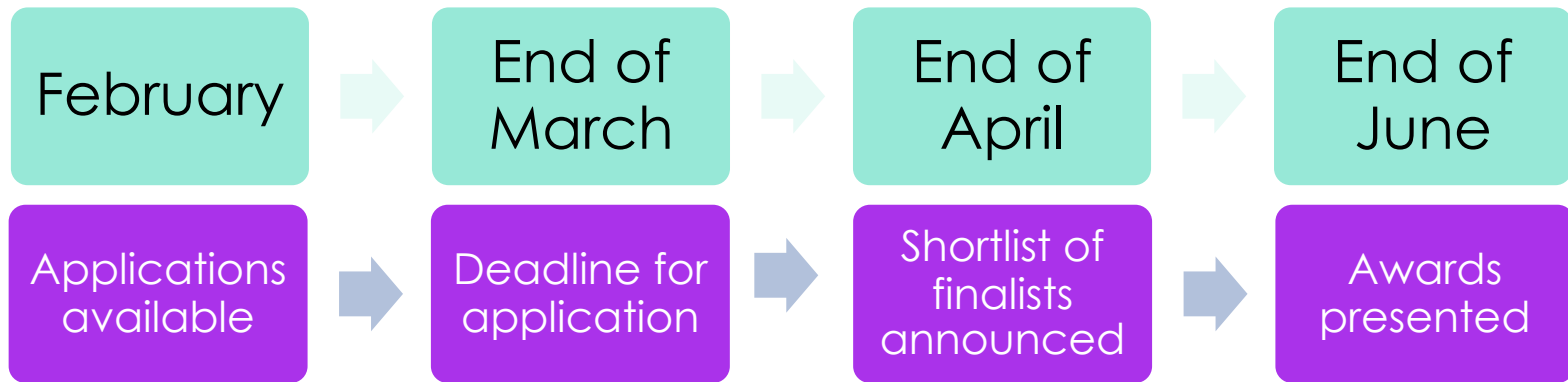
Student Voice Primary School Student Award

Student Voice Primary School of the Year Award

Student Voice Secondary School Student Award

Student Voice Secondary School of the Year Award

Application Process and Timeline



- Nominations can be made by students and/or teachers.
- There is no application fee for the award.
- The application form asks for simple examples of evidence against the criteria.
- We will appoint an independent panel of three expert judges.
- In each category we will shortlist three finalists.
- All twelve finalists will receive a certificate and feature on the Student Voice Awards website page.
- The four overall winners will receive a prize, presented at the school.
- Student Voice Awards are annual from the date of issue.

Making a nomination



To nominate a student or school for an award, please:

- submit a 1-2 minute video showcasing how your nominee meets the award criteria.
- complete the short written nomination form.
- you can nominate for more than one award, but each nomination you submit must have a different video and application form.



Nomination tips:

- Make sure you understand what student voice means.
- Clearly read the award criteria to ensure your nominee meets it.
- Plan your nomination video – does it clearly address the criteria?
- Use examples that demonstrate the impact student voice has had.
- Relate your nomination back to how it is contributing to, changing and/or strengthening the culture of student voice in your school.

Award Criteria



Students are informed; actively involved in the community and interested in the wider world. This means:

- Finding out about and engaging with current issues
- Listening to others and taking account of their views
- Assessing what the key issues are

Students are curious; questioning and exploring issues through discussion. This means:

- Helping creating a safe and inclusive space to explore issues together
- Using critical thinking and oracy skills through questioning and enquiry
- Making informed and reasoned judgements about courses of action

Students are heard; articulating views and proactively initiating positive change. This means:

- Having confidence to present informed judgements
- Presenting views clearly and considerately
- Participating in democratic action
- Creating opportunities, and supporting others, to have a voice

Summary of Award Criteria



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Primary and Secondary **Student Award**.

This award is for a student who is...

Informed; actively involved in their community and interested in the wider world.

Curious; questioning and explores issues through discussion.

Heard; uses their voice to articulate their views and is pro-active in initiating positive change.

Student nomination form



Name of student: Criteria	Please give examples below of how this student meets the criteria
Informed; actively involved in their community and interested in the wider world	
Curious; questioning and explores issues through discussion	
Heard; uses their voice to articulate their views and is pro-active in initiating positive change	
Any additional supporting comments	
Contact information Name: Email:	
Please email this form to lizzy@votesforschools.com	

Summary of Award Criteria



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Primary and Secondary **School of the Year Award**

This is for a school that...

Gives students genuine and meaningful opportunities to have a voice and influence decisions which affect them.

Puts student voice at the heart of learning and school life.

Maintains a high standard of student voice that is inclusive.

School of the Year nomination form



Name of school: Criteria	Please give examples below of how this school meets the criteria
Puts student voice at the heart of learning and school life	
Gives students genuine and meaningful opportunities to have a voice and influence decisions which affect them	
Maintains a high standard of student voice that is inclusive	
Any additional supporting comments	
Contact information Name: Email: Please email this form to izzy@votesforschools.com	

Why is student voice important?

- ✔ **Discussing and debating** real issues in school and beyond gives students skills for life
- ✔ **Creating a safe space** to explore educational, social and political issues
- ✔ Empowering students to **safeguard themselves** against risks to personal health and society
- ✔ **Building skills** of tolerance, respect, compassion, listening to others & hearing views that are opposed to yours or your family
- ✔ Empowering **all teachers** to have the **confidence** to facilitate debates
- ✔ Critically looking at the world & their school helps prepare students for **participation in democracy**
- ✔ They are actually taking part in a **democratic process**
- ✔ Clever way to teach tricky subjects & engage in **moral dilemmas**

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says that children should have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

Evidence suggests effective SV can improve many aspects of school life

Students are happier and participate in their education more effectively when their ideas are listened to, and their opinions valued. Bit like adults!

They offer a formal, democratic, transparent and accountable whole-school forum for student participation – one which can link to the broader governance of a school