



STUDENT VOICE AWARDS

Information for Applicants



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.



Why is Student Voice so important?



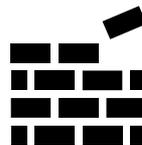
Students gain skills for life by **discussing** real issues in school and beyond

Students **create a safe space** to explore political and social issues



Students are **empowered** to **self-safeguard** against potential risks

Students **build skills** of tolerance, respect, compassion, and empathy



Teachers are also **empowered** to have the **confidence** to facilitate debates

Students learn how to **look critically** at the world around them



Students build good democratic habits by **taking part** in wider discussions.



What do the experts say?

Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child says that **children should have a say in decisions that affect them.**

Evidence suggests effective Student Voice 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 are valued**, just like adults!

Promotion of Student Voice can link to the **broader governance** of a school.

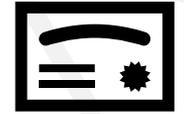


What are the Student Voice Awards?



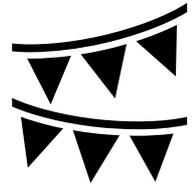
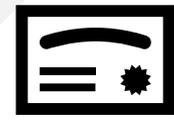
The Student Voice Awards **promote student voice** by recognising and celebrating **high quality** and **inspiring practice**. There are **four national awards**:

Primary School Pupil Award



Primary School of the Year Award

Secondary School Student Award



Secondary School of the Year Award



Application process & timeline

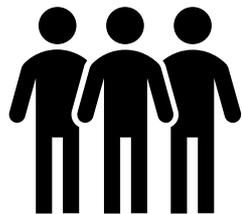


January:
Applications available

End of April:
Application deadline

End of May:
Shortlist announced

End of June:
Awards presented



Who?

Nominations can be made by students and/or teachers, and the school or student does not need to be a VotesforSchools subscriber to apply. A panel of three independent, expert judges will be appointed, and each category will have three finalists.

How?

There is no application fee for the Awards, and the application form asks for simple examples of evidence that meet the criteria.



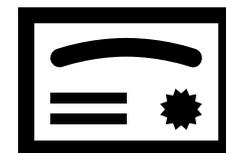
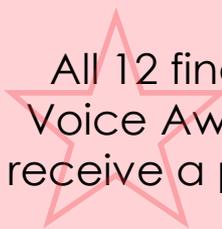
Where?

You can find the application form on our website, or more information on the next slide.



What?

All 12 finalists will receive a certificate and feature on the Student Voice Awards page of our website. The four overall winners will also receive a prize, presented at the school (restrictions-dependent). The awards are annual from the date of issue.



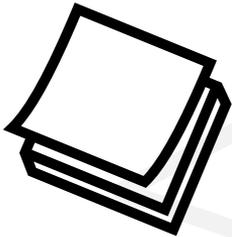


Making a nomination



Making a nomination is simple!

All you need to do is complete a short written nomination form, which is available to download on our website!



And if one isn't enough...

If you would like to make a nomination for multiple Awards, you will just need to submit a separate application for each one.

Here are some Top Tips to ensure your nomination is tip-top!

1

Read the Award criteria to ensure your nominee meets it.

2

Use specific examples that demonstrate the impact student voice has had.

3

Relate your nomination back to how it is contributing to, changing, and/or strengthening the culture of student voice in your community.



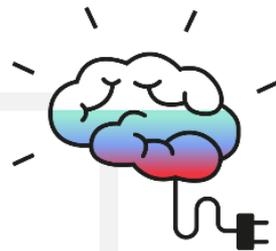
Summary of Student Award criteria



The **Primary Pupil & Secondary School Student Awards** are for **individuals** who are:

Informed

Actively involved in their community and interested in the **wider world**.



Inquisitive, questioning, and eager to **explore** issues through **discussion**.

Curious



Heard

Uses their **voice** to **articulate their views** and is proactive in initiating **positive change**.

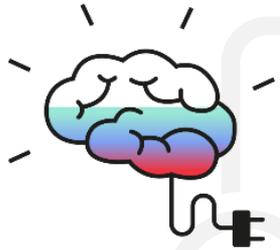




Summary of School Award criteria

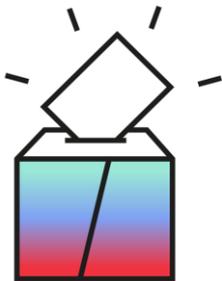


The **Primary & Secondary School of the Year Awards** are for **schools** that:



Give young people **genuine and meaningful opportunities** to have a **voice** and **influence decisions** which affect them.

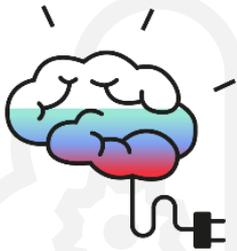
Put student voice **at the heart of learning** and school life.



Maintains a **high standard** of student voice that is **inclusive**.



A closer look at Student Award criteria



Informed students:

Actively find out about and **engage** with **current issues**

Listen to others and **take account** of their **views**

Assess and **share** what the **key issues** of the day are



Curious students:

Create an **inclusive space** to explore issues **together**

Use **critical thinking** and **oracy skills** through questioning and enquiry

Make **informed** and **reasoned** judgments



Heard students:

Have the **confidence** to **present** informed judgments

Present views **clearly** and **considerately**

Engage in **democratic action** and **support** others to have a voice