



IOA Primary Schools Competition 2026 Terms & Conditions:

1. This competition is promoted by the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) based at: 406 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 2AF, UK.
2. This promotion is open to all primary schools in the UK.
3. You must be attending primary school to enter this competition and supported by at least one registered Teacher from the school you're attending who can verify your identity as a pupil of the school. Participation in this competition must comply with the relevant health and safety requirements that apply to this type of activity at your school. This competition is for children aged 7 to 11 years old working individually or in groups of up to four children.
4. How to enter: Entries must be submitted in a standard electronic format (e.g. Word, pdf or similar) to primary@ioa.org.uk. Please include the name and age of the participating pupils as well as the name and contact details of the school for each competition entry. There are no limits to the number of entries from a primary school, however the school must be located in the UK. A confirmation email will be sent out upon receipt of your application. If you do not receive this following your submission, then it will be your responsibility to make contact with the IOA either via email, phone or by writing to the Institute to ensure the application has been safely received. Please allow 2-3 days to receive a confirmatory response about your entry. Note that any posted paper entries will not be accepted, all entries need to be submitted electronically.
5. The opening date for entries is 1st March 2026. The closing date for entries is 23.59 hours on 31st July 2026. No entries received after this time will be accepted. Any entry that was submitted by or before 31st July will be accepted as having been submitted within the competition timeframe.
6. Entries are entirely free to any primary schools based in the UK. Unfortunately, if your school is not based in the UK, you will not be able to enter this competition.
7. Although there are no limits to the number of entries that a school can make, any individual pupil can only submit one entry and will need to have the written support of a registered Teacher in their school. There is no minimum size in terms of the number of students who can enter as a team, nor is there a maximum size, as long as the entry is supported by a registered Teacher at their school. However, the number of students able to attend the Awards ceremony is limited to no more than 4 students (see clause 8).



8. The prize is as follows:

The winning entrant(s) will each receive a prize of £25 plus a prize of £500 for their school. The winning school will also receive an engraved crystal trophy. The winner plus one friend or winning group, one teacher and one parent/guardian per child will also be invited to visit their nearest science centre, e.g. Winchester Science Centre, Glasgow Science Centre or the University of Salford. In addition, the winning school will be given the opportunity for a STEM Ambassador who is a member of the Institute of Acoustics to visit them to present the award and speak a little about what it is like to work in acoustics.

9. The prize is non-refundable, non-transferable and subject to availability.

Alternative arrangements may need to be made subject to any unexpected reason that may arise.

10. No prize alternatives are available to the pupils and schools that enter.

11. The IOA reserves the right in their reasonable discretion to substitute any prize with a prize of equal or greater value without prior notification.

12. The winning entry for the competition will be judged by a panel of experts. The decision of the judging panel and the IOA will be final.

13. All entrants are expected to act fairly and in the good spirit of the competition. The IOA reserves the right to investigate any irregularities and disqualify entrants at their absolute discretion.

14. The prize will be delivered to the winning entry between 1st October and 1st December 2026. The IOA reserves the right to select another winning entry if the original winners cannot be contacted within a reasonable timeframe or the original winners are unable to confirm their acceptance and participation in the prize giving ceremony.

15. Any entry containing incorrect, false or indecipherable information will be rejected. Any applications made on behalf of or for another student, team or school will not be included in the competition.

16. The IOA's decision as to who has won the competition shall be final.



17. To obtain details of the prize winner after the closing date, please email primary@ioa.org.uk Information about the winning entry will be published on the IOA website (www.ioa.org.uk). The winning entry is likely to be announced sometime in September 2026 if not before.
18. The entry instructions are part of the Terms and Conditions for this competition.
19. By entering the competition you are agreeing to accept these Terms and Conditions. Any breach of these Terms and Conditions by you will mean that your entry will not be valid, and your entry will not be considered by the judging panel.
20. By entering this competition you are agreeing that, if you win, the name of your school and of the participants in the winning team may be a) used for the purpose of announcing the winner and/or distributed to individuals who request details of the winner and/or b) in any related publicity by the IOA, without additional payment or permission. It is anticipated that some photographs will be taken at the prize giving ceremony and the IOA will retain the right to use these images and details of the school and the winning team for publicity purposes to its Members as well as for publishing on its website and across any other external promotional platforms.
21. Any personal information you give us will be used solely for this competition and will not be passed on to any other parties without your written agreement. The IOA's privacy policy can be found at: <https://www.ioa.org.uk/institute-services/about-us/terms-and-conditions>
22. Under no circumstances will the IOA be responsible for any loss, damages, costs or expenses arising from or in any way connected with any errors, defects, interruptions, malfunctions or delays in the promotion of the competition or prize.
23. The IOA will not be responsible unless required by law, for any loss, changes, costs or expenses, which may arise in connection with this competition apart from those already included in the prize and the IOA can cancel or alter the competition at any stage.
24. Any dispute relating to the competition shall be governed by the laws of England and Wales and will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.