

Nature Hero Awards (NHAs) 2026

Terms & Conditions

Eligibility

The competition is open to all preschools, primary schools and secondary schools within the Republic of Ireland registered with the NHAs. Homeschools and schools in Northern Ireland can also take part but are not eligible for the main prizes.

How to enter

Schools must officially register with the NHAs in order for their application to be accepted and the submission process to be completed in full.

Submission guidelines

In order for schools to be considered for top prizes they must excel in their work as evidenced in their submission form and video.

Judging criteria

Schools will be assessed in how they have completed the actions as outlined in the NHAs application form and this work is backed-up with evidence. The best performing schools will be the winners. Judges decisions are final.

Prizes

The overall prize of the NHAs is a school garden fund of €5,000. This prize is generously sponsored by the NHA partners Glenveagh Homes. The prize fund must be spent during the current calendar year. A plan must be submitted by the school in order for funds to be released. Funds must be spent to the benefit of biodiversity and young people's connection to nature. Judges decisions are final. This also applies to all other prizes including best preschool (€1,000), primary (€1,000) and secondary school (€1,000). This also applies to the 8 spot prizes of €250 each.

Publicity

Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission to use the relevant winners' names, and likeness for purposes of advertising, promotion or publicity in any media (including social media) without additional compensation and prize winners agree to take part in such related promotional activities as may be required. By entering the competition, the school is providing consent for video footage/ photography of the schools biodiversity areas. Provision of parental consent for photos/ images of staff and children is the sole responsibility of the school. By submitting your entry you are consenting for your information to be used in the promotion of the NHAs, including text, images and video.

Notification

The winning school will be notified by phone call and email.

Data Protection

Personal information collected during the NHAs will be used solely for the purpose of administering the project and will not be shared with third parties without consent. Personal data collected in conjunction with the NHAs will be deleted upon completion of the project.

Acceptance of Terms

By entering the NHAs participants agree to abide by these terms and conditions.