

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING KINDNESS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UK

An Initiative By



Changing Lives and Inspiring Kindness

A close-up photograph of two young children of African descent. The child on the left, wearing a light blue shirt, is hugging the child on the right. The child on the right, wearing a red polo shirt and glasses, is smiling and looking down. The background is a soft, out-of-focus purple.

♥
**KINDNESS
AWARDS**
SCHOOL OF KINDNESS

Kindness helps to build strong, supportive school communities and is important for everybody's health and wellbeing, so we want to celebrate it!

Is there an individual child or adult in your school who has gone above and beyond? Is there a class that has done something extraordinary to help someone? Or has your school worked hard to create a culture of kindness for pupils and staff? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

You can nominate an individual, class or school for a Kindness Award by visiting <https://schoolofkindness.org/nominate>

Please read the full criteria below before making a nomination.



AWARD CATEGORIES

Outstanding Kindness Award
(pupil)
Read Criteria

Outstanding Kindness Award
(adult)
Read Criteria

Collective Kindness Award
(class or group)
Read Criteria

Kind School Award
(whole school award)
Read Criteria

Nominations open on November 13th 2025 and close on April 27th 2026.

Need Some Inspiration?

Read what last year's winners did here.

The Kindness Awards are being run by the
52 Lives - School of Kindness, with the generous support of
NBB Recycled Furniture, The Week Junior, Einstein Tax and Howden.



PRIZES

When we're kind, everyone's a winner! BUT we do also have some special prizes for our Kindness Awards winners.

All winners will receive certificates and trophies.

- The Pupil and Adult Kindness Award winners will each receive a £50 gift voucher, a signed book bundle, and a six month subscription to The Week Junior and The Happy Newspaper.
- The Collective Kindness Award winner will receive £100 to put towards growing their kind initiative, a kind book bundle for the classroom, and a six month subscription to The Week Junior and The Happy Newspaper for the classroom.
- The Kind School Award winner will receive a 'School of Kindness' Picnic Table for their playground, donated by the kind people at NBB Recycled Furniture, the use of a Kind School Award winner logo and a six month subscription to The Week Junior and The Happy Newspaper for their school.
- Winners will be invited to a celebration event in London, hosted by one of our kind sponsors, Howden.

Runners-Up

A runner-up will also be chosen in each category. Runners up will receive certificates and trophies.



OUR JUDGING PANEL

We know there is an abundance of kindness happening in schools all over the country, so are anticipating a high number of nominations. With that in mind, we have brought together a wonderful network of kind minds to help with the difficult task of choosing our winners! These judges will be divided into four mini judging panels – one for each award category.



Ava
Kind Pupil Winner
2025



Asha Day BEM
Head of International
Recruitment,
Leicestershire NHS



Beth Longman
Senior Manager, NBB
Recycled Furniture



Dan Devonald
Money Engineer,
Einstein Tax



Dr. David Hamilton
Author



Ed Kirwan
CEO and Founder of
Empathy Studios and
Empathy Week



Elisa Spivey
Director,
Sales Filter



Emily Coxhead
Founder of The Happy
News / Author and
Illustrator



Jaime Thurston BEM
Founder of 52 Lives &
School of Kindness



Dr. Jeremy Hannay
Executive Principal, Three
Bridges & Wolf Fields
Primary Schools



Jo Taylor
Executive Director,
Howden



John Sweeney
Founder and Chief
Kindness Officer, Suspended
Coffees / Co-founder of
Drop Dead Generous



Kumbi Kariwo
NHS Health
Inequalities Lead



Manjit Darby MBE
Senior Nurse and
Non-Exec Director,
NHS



Rahul Verma
Deputy Editor,
The Week Junior



Prof. Robin Banerjee
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for
Global and Civic Engagement,
University of Sussex



Stacie Swift
Illustrator and
Well-being Advocate



St Chad's Pupils
St Chad's Primary
School Kindness
Ambassadors



Vincent Brittain
Founder and CEO of
inspire+ and Co-Founder of
Schools Active Movement



KINDNESS AWARDS CRITERIA

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Outstanding Kindness Award - Pupil

This Outstanding Kindness Award will be awarded to an individual pupil who has demonstrated an exceptional level of kindness within their school or community during the 25/26 school year.

- Open to individual pupils from reception through to year 6.
- Nominations should provide details of what the child has done, and the impact it has had on others within their school or community.
- Children may not nominate themselves, but they may nominate another child (via a teacher/parent/guardian).
- If you are a parent / guardian and wish to nominate your own child, please upload a supporting letter from your child's teacher as part of your nomination (if your child is home-schooled, please contact us for some extra guidance).

Inspiration: Has someone started a kindness initiative within school that has made a big difference to other children? Perhaps they have gone above and beyond to help a fellow pupil or staff member? Have they done something extraordinary to help their local community?

NOMINATE NOW



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Graham Spivey Outstanding Kindness Award - Adult

The Graham Spivey Outstanding Kindness Award will be awarded to an individual adult working within a school who has demonstrated an exceptional level of kindness during the 25/26 school year.

- Open to any adult working within a school (for example a teacher, a cleaner, a catering staff member etc).
- Children may submit nominations, but it must be done via a teacher/parent/guardian.
- People may not nominate themselves.

Nominations should provide details of:

- What the person has done to demonstrate an exceptional level of kindness.
- The impact they have had on those around them.

Inspiration: Is there a teacher who has done something special to support a colleague or pupil? Is there a caretaker who goes the extra mile? Is there a member of the catering team who has helped to create a wonderful working environment?

NOMINATE NOW

This award is dedicated to the memory of Graham Spivey, a cherished former trustee of 52 Lives, whose kindness and compassion left a lasting legacy.



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Collective Kindness Award - Class or Group

This Collective Kindness Award will be awarded to a class or school group that has demonstrated an exceptional level of kindness during the 25/26 school year.

- Open to any class or organised group (for example a club or council) within the school.
- People may nominate their own group.
- Children may submit nominations, but it should be done via a teacher/parent/guardian.

Inspiration: Has your school council launched a kindness initiative within the school that has had a big impact? Has an after-school club helped significantly with a worthwhile cause. Or is there a class that has worked together to create an extra kind culture within their classroom?

Nominations should provide detail of:

- What the class/group has done to demonstrate an exceptional level of kindness.
- Who was involved.
- What difference it has made
- It is expected that supporting evidence would be submitted with the nomination.

NOMINATE NOW



Kind School Award - Whole School Award



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The Kind School Award celebrates a school that is truly living and breathing kindness - where kindness and wellbeing are at the heart of school life and woven into every part of the day. We're looking for a school that can show, with evidence, that kindness isn't just encouraged, but embedded in your culture, values, and daily practice.

This is our flagship award, and as such, we ask for a detailed nomination. Entries must come from the head teacher or a member of the senior leadership team. Please provide specific examples and include evidence to support your nomination. We'd like to know:

- Why your school deserves to win the Kind School Award.
- How and why kindness has become such an important feature of your school.
- What initiatives, policies, or practices you've introduced to foster kindness among pupils, staff, and families.
- What measurable impact these efforts have had on individuals or the wider school culture.
- How your school has shared kindness beyond the classroom, within your local or global community.

We know there's already an incredible amount of kindness happening in schools across the country, and we'd love to hear about it! To spark ideas, here are some examples of what might feature in a Kind School (these are just suggestions - we welcome creativity and innovation):

- Regular kindness or wellbeing lessons, exploring empathy, the science of kindness, and emotional literacy.



- Participation in School of Kindness activities or challenges.
- A student-led kindness council or inclusion of kindness as a standing agenda item in school council meetings.
- Kindness ambassadors or peer mentors supporting pupils and promoting positive relationships.
- Staff wellbeing programmes that model self-kindness and compassion.
- Leadership that models kindness and empathy.
- Recognition systems (e.g. Kindness Awards, kindness walls, or shout-outs) celebrating kind acts.
- Community kindness projects, extending kindness beyond the school gates.
- Kindness to the planet initiatives e.g., eco projects.

While the nomination form has a word limit, we ask that you provide evidence to support your narrative. You may include up to four supporting documents (max 10MB each) with your entry. This could include things such as photographs, lesson plans, newsletters, feedback, or impact reports - anything that helps us see and feel the kindness in action. Please ensure all attachments clearly relate to your submission.

NOMINATE NOW

USEFUL RESOURCES

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR KINDNESS AWARDS](#)

[MAKE A NOMINATION](#)

[DOWNLOAD A KINDNESS AWARDS POSTER](#)

[JOIN OUR FREE KIDS' KINDNESS CLUB](#)

[FIND FREE KINDNESS LESSON PLANS](#)

[READ ABOUT LAST YEAR'S WINNERS](#)



www.schoolofkindness.org



www.52-lives.org



52 Lives is a charity registered in England and Wales.
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