2026/2027

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING KINDNESS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UK

An Initiative By

52LIVES

Changing Lives and Inspiring 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

Kind Pupil Award
Read Criteria

Graham Spivey Kind Adult Award
Read Criteria

Collective Kindness Award
Read Criteria

Kind School Award
Read Criteria

Nominations open on November 13th 2026 and close on April 26th 2027.

A note about AI: You are welcome to use AI tools to help with spelling, grammar or organising your thoughts, but the nomination itself should be based on your own knowledge and written in your own words. Please include real, specific examples that help our judges understand what the nominee has done and the difference it has made. Generic or unsupported statements may make it harder for the judges to assess your nomination.

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 and Einstein Tax.

NBB Recycled Furniture

THE WEEK Junior

Einstein TAX

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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 £100 gift voucher, a signed book bundle, a six month subscription to The Week Junior and a 12 month subscription to 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 a 12 month subscription to 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 a 12 month subscription to The Happy Newspaper for their school.

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











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
Vice Chair, Community Practitioners and Health Visitor's Association



Beth Longman
Senior Marketing Manager, NBB Recycled Furniture



Dan Devonald
Money Engineer, Einstein Tax



Dr. David Hamilton
Author



Ed Kirwan
CEO, Founder & Filmmaker, Empathy Studios & 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, Southall Waterside Federation



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



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



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



James Carroll
Managing Director, Cognita Schools



Naomi Ward
Graham Spivey Kind Adult Award Winner 2026



Noah
Kind Pupil Winner 2026



Frogmore Inclusion Group
Collective Kindness Winners 2026



Greig Trout
Director of Kindness

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KINDNESS AWARDS CRITERIA

Kind Pupil Award

The Kind Pupil Award will be awarded to an individual pupil who has demonstrated an exceptional level of kindness within their school or community during the 26/27 school year.

- Open to individual pupils from Reception through to Year 6.
- Nominations should provide specific details of what the child has done and the impact it has had on others within their school or community.
- Children cannot nominate themselves, and nominations cannot be made by a relative of the child.
- All nominations must be submitted by an adult. Children may nominate another child, but the nomination must be submitted on their behalf by a teacher, parent or guardian.
- If the child being nominated is home-educated, please contact us for guidance before submitting a nomination.

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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KINDNESS AWARDS
SCHOOL OF KINDNESS

Graham Spivey Kind Adult Award

The Graham Spivey Kind Adult Award will be awarded to an individual adult working within a school who has demonstrated an exceptional level of kindness during the 26/27 school year.

- Open to any adult working within a primary 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 26/27 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.

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Kind School Award - Whole School Award

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 its 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.

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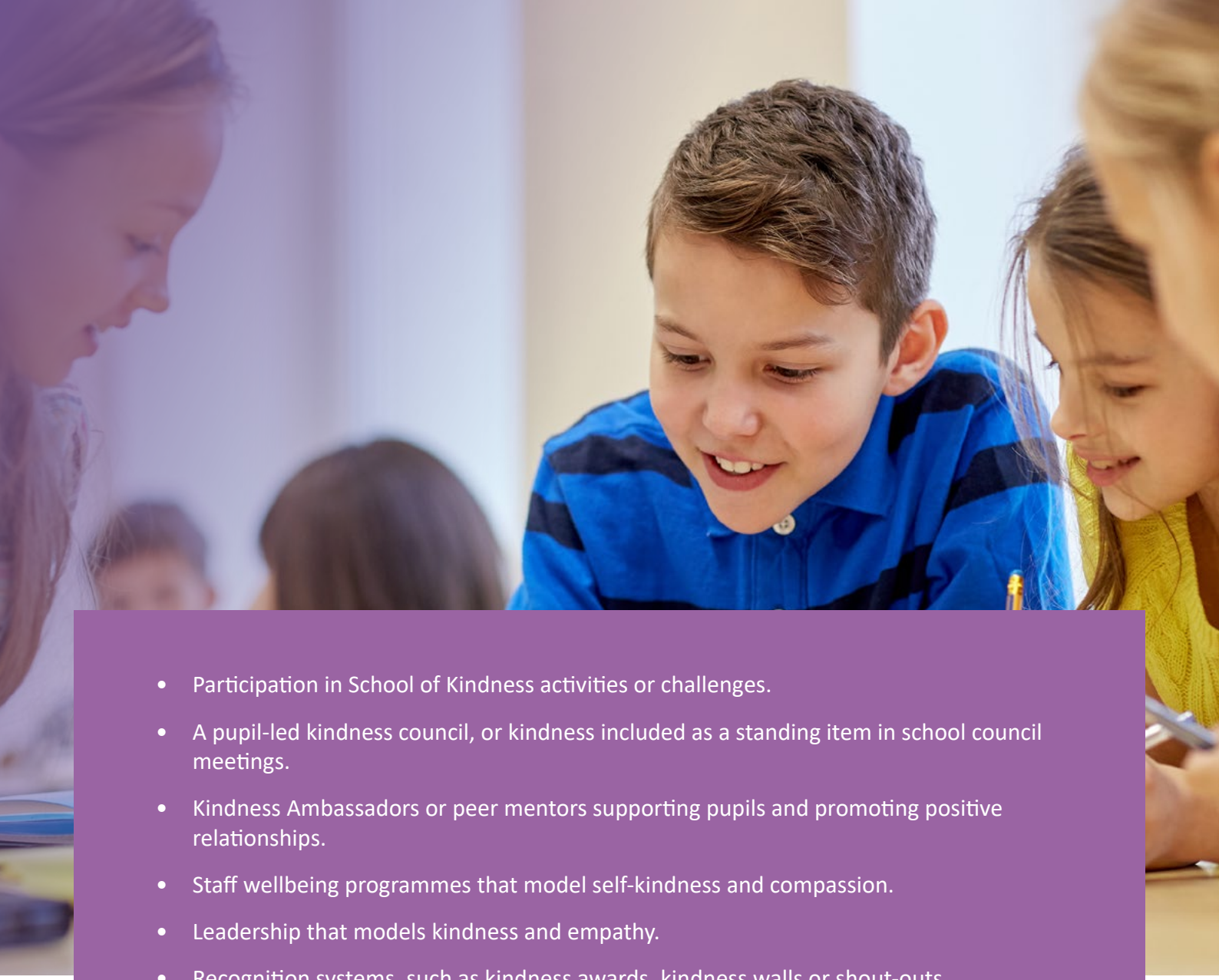

- Participation in School of Kindness activities or challenges.
- A pupil-led kindness council, or kindness included as a standing item in school council meetings.
- Kindness Ambassadors or peer mentors supporting pupils and promoting positive relationships.
- Staff wellbeing programmes that model self-kindness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

While the nomination form has a word limit, we ask that you provide evidence to support your nomination. You may include up to four supporting documents (maximum 10MB each) with your entry. These could include 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.

Shortlisted schools will receive a pre-arranged visit from members of our judging panel. This will give our judges an opportunity to see kindness in action and meet some of the pupils and staff who help bring the school's values to life. By entering, schools confirm that they are happy to take part in a visit if shortlisted.

NOMINATE NOW

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USEFUL RESOURCES

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR KINDNESS AWARDS

MAKE A NOMINATION

DOWNLOAD A KINDNESS AWARDS POSTER

FIND FREE KINDNESS LESSON PLANS

READ ABOUT LAST YEAR'S WINNERS

52 LIVES
SCHOOL OF KINDNESS

www.schoolofkindness.org

www.52-lives.org

52 Lives is a charity registered in England and Wales.
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