

Rotary **YOUNG** **ARTIST** COMPETITION



INFORMATION PACK

2026-27



[ROTARYGBI.ORG](https://rotarygbi.org)

Rotary 
Great Britain & Ireland

Information Pack for 2026-27

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THEME – ‘Friendship’

The ‘Friendship’ theme can be interpreted as broadly as the Young Artist wishes and does not need to conform to a dictionary definition. Young people are encouraged to use their creativity to show what this theme means to them.

Introduction

The Rotary Young Artist Competition is organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I).

There are three stages to the competition, designed to support and encourage the development of artistic skills. Some stages may have more than one round to select entrants progressing to the next stage.

Aims and Objectives

The competition encourages young people to:

- be creative
- develop skills in traditional, contemporary or digital media
- interpret the theme thoughtfully
- express personal ideas through their chosen medium or mediums

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all young people living within a Rotary Great Britain and Ireland district, including Gibraltar, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, provided they fall within the age groups shown below. They may be an individual choosing to enter directly themselves or amongst the entries submitted by a group or community organisation including schools and colleges, home educated, other young peoples’ community organisations, for example, community RotaKids or Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides, etc.

Age groups (based on age as of 31st August 2026):

Junior	Up to and including 10 years old
Intermediate	11 to 13 years old
Senior	14 to 17 years old

Note: Because the qualifying age is based on 31st August 2026, some entrants may have birthdays that would otherwise place them in a different age group at the actual date of the competition. For example, a young person who is 17 on 31st August but turns 18 on 3rd September 2026 is still eligible to enter as a Senior or a 10-year-old on 31st August 2026 with their birthday on 1st September 2026 is still eligible to enter the Junior category. **Entrants must include their age on the entry form.**

How to Enter

To enter a local heat, contact your local Rotary club. You can find one using the club finder at the top left-hand corner of the homepage of the Rotary GB&I website www.rotarygbi.org. If you’re unable to reach a local club or if you have any questions, please email the Rotary GB&I Competitions Team at competitions@rotarygbi.org.

Entrants should submit their entry through their group or organisation or individually. A completed entry form and a digital copy of the artwork must be submitted to the relevant stage organiser by the specified deadline.

Important: Entrants may participate in a competition organised by a Rotary club outside their geographical area but may enter only one local heat.

The Three Stages of the Competition

Please note: some stages may involve more than one round to select those progressing to the next stage.

Local Heats

These are organised by local Rotary clubs, each of which sets its own deadline for entries. This deadline must allow enough time for winning entries from the Local Heat/s to be submitted, along with the correctly completed entry form and any necessary consent form/s, to the Rotary district for the District Final.

Entries received after the deadline set for the Local Heat/s in your area will not be accepted.

District Finals

The winning entries from the Local Heats in each age group are entered into the Rotary district final and must be accompanied by the correctly completed entry form and any necessary consent form/s. Each district sets its own deadline to ensure sufficient time for district winners to be submitted electronically for the National Final.

Local Heat/s winners submitted after the district deadline will not be accepted.

National Final

The winning entry for each age group at the district level is entered into the National Final which is organised by Rotary GB&I. Entries must be submitted electronically to [cgs@rotarygbi.org](mailto:cds@rotarygbi.org) by the deadline of 30th April 2027, and each must be accompanied by a correctly completed entry form and any necessary consent form/s.

District winners submitted after the National Final deadline will not be accepted.

Competition Guidelines

Task

Create one finished **two-dimensional** unframed, piece of artwork based upon the theme, '**Friendship**'.

Artwork may be created in any medium or mediums for example pen and ink, paint, collage, printmaking or digital formats.

Each entrant MUST include a brief sentence explaining how their artwork relates to the theme. This sentence must be added to the appropriate section of the entry form. Entries without this explanation will be disqualified.

Please note:

- Artwork that forms part of a current educational exam portfolio are **not eligible** for entry due to exam board regulations
- If the artwork includes **photographic or video images of people under 18 years of age or adults at risk, a signed consent form/s must accompany the entry**
- For the National Final the artwork must be submitted digitally and be at least 1500 pixel in size on the longest length and the entry and supporting information sent electronically **MUST NOT EXCEED 15Mb** per email sent

Originality, Use of Artificial Intelligence, Plagiarism or Close Copying

Entries must be entirely the competitor's own original work and must match the theme of the competition. Plagiarised, copied, traced, close-copied, or AI-generated work is not permitted in any Rotary Youth Competition.

It is important that we protect the work of creative individuals. While we are all inspired by the work of others, competitors must not use generative artificial intelligence (AI), or any app, tool or platform that creates, rewrites, edits, enhances or generates any part of the submission. The entry must be created solely by the competitor.

For the purposes of these competitions, “close copying” means that, to a reasonable person, the entry appears remarkably similar in significant respects to work created elsewhere.

Rotary reserves the right to investigate any entry where plagiarism, close copying or use of AI is suspected, and to disqualify any entry found to be in breach of this rule.

Judges

The judges will be people with appropriate skills appointed by the organisers for the Local Heats and District Finals accordingly.

At the National level the judges will be appointed by Rotary GB&I and will not be Rotarians.

Judging Criteria

Judges will consider:

- technical merit
- content and composition
- imagination and style
- relevance to the theme.

The judges will not enter any discussion or correspondence regarding their decision; the decision of the judges will be final and not subject to any appeal.

Recognition

At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Rotary Youth Competitions and other opportunities for young people

Take a look at <https://www.rotaryqbi.org/projects/young-people/> to explore

- other Rotary Youth Competitions: Chef, Environmentalist, Musician, Photographer, Writer, Youth Speaks and Youth Speaks - A Debate
- and
- Rotary Young Citizen Awards, Rotary Young Citizen Environmentalist Award, Rotary Young Citizen Peacemaker Award and Rotary Young Citizen Sporting Hero Award

You may wish to enter more than one competition or Award.

You'll also find information about

- Rotary Technology Tournaments which are organised in many areas
- Rotary programmes including RotaKids, Interact, and Developing Future Leaders
- Rotary Youth Exchange and more

There may be additional opportunities available locally - connect with Rotarians in your area to find out what's happening near you.

Working with Children

Rotary GB&I has adopted this statement of policy in working with children, vulnerable adults and those with disability:

The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact during their Rotarian duties.

Click here to see the [Rotary GB&I Safeguarding Policy](#)

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland Youth Competitions consent form for use of images of young people under 18 years or adults at risk

Rotary GB&I Youth Competitions Entrant Name: _____

The young person named above is submitting an entry for the Rotary GB&I Youth Competitions 2026/27 and is requesting permission to use your image/s as part of their submission. This may mean that your image could be used by Rotary GB&I for the following purposes:

1. Rotary social media platforms
2. Rotary websites
3. Media coverage such as newspapers or other publications

Image Retention

Once shared, your image may continue to appear elsewhere depending on how it was used e.g. in newspaper articles, website, posters, etc. If shared with third parties their privacy policies will apply.

If you believe the image is being used inappropriately, please inform the sponsoring Rotary Club immediately.

Groups

A separate form must be completed for each young person or adult at risk whose image is being used.

Parent/Guardian/Carer Consent Statement

I give consent for the image of the person named below to be used by the Entrant for the purposes outlined above

Print FIRST name of child or adult at risk:

Parent/Guardian/Carer Signature:

Print Name of person signing:

Date:

Relationship to child or adult at risk:

Please attach this form to the competition submission that includes the image/s

**This form is available as a separate document*