

Green-Schools National Marine Creative Writing Competition 2026

Terms & Conditions of Entry

1. Number of Entries: Primary schools may submit up to three individual entries per age category, and therefore a maximum of nine entries per school. Secondary Schools may submit a **maximum of nine entries per school**. Individual students may **not** submit multiple entries. We recommend that teachers run a school or class competition and submit the top entries from this to the Green-Schools competition. Entries can only have one author – exceptions may be made for Special Schools.

2. Word count: Entries should be no more than **500** words in length

3. Format: Entries should be fictional and can be either a short story or a poem. Entries may be typed (preferred) or hand-written, but all entries must be submitted through the online entry form (see below). Entries must be submitted in English. Entries should be inspired by the theme “*A message from the waves*”.

4. Methods of Entry: Entries must be submitted through the **online entry form** at the following link: www.tinyurl.com/gsmarinewriting26 . Postal entries will not be accepted.

It is the **responsibility of the teacher/adult** submitting the entries to ensure that the **entrant’s name and details are correct**. The winning entries will be printed in an anthology booklet, and the author’s names and details will be printed as per the entry form.

Entries can either be typed/pasted into the space provided or for handwritten entries, a scan or image of the entry can be uploaded through the form. Please ensure that scans are in the **correct orientation, clear and legible**; poor quality or illegible images will be disqualified.

If a teacher is submitting multiple entries from one school, **a separate form must be used for each entry**. Entries submitted by post will **not** be accepted.

5. Contact details: Entries must be submitted through the online form and include all the required details for the entrant and his/her school for correspondence purposes.

6. Closing Date: Entries must be received by midnight, **Friday, 27th February, 2026**.

7. Notification: Competition winners will be announced and winning entries will be publicised during Green-Schools Marine Week (20th – 24th April, 2026). Winners may be invited to attend an in-person prize-giving and Awards Ceremony event in May. Unsuccessful entrants will not be notified.

8. Judging: A panel of judges will select the winning entries. The judges’ decision is final. No correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into.

9. Returns: Entrants should keep a copy of their work. Green-Schools is unable to return any entries to schools.

10. Publicity: Winners may be asked to take part in competition publicity including being photographed by the media. Winning entries will be published online during Green-Schools Marine Week online event from 20th – 24th April, 2026. Winning students may be asked to read their winning entry at an in-person Awards Ceremony event in May.

11. Eligibility: The competition is open to all registered Green-Schools who are working on, or have been awarded, the Global Citizenship: Marine Environment theme.

Entries must not have been published, self-published, published on any website, blog or online forum, broadcast, have won or been placed (2nd, 3rd, runner up etc) in any other competition (excluding internal school/class competition).

AI: The submission must be the original work of the named author. Entries that have wholly or in part been created using AI will be automatically disqualified.

Language: Submissions must be in English.

12. Consent: By submitting an entry to the competition you declare that the work is the original work solely owned and created by the entrant. You give permission that Green-Schools Ireland and the sponsor the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment may reproduce the work or any part of it online on their websites and social media platforms, at online Green-Schools Marine Week events and in any anthology, newsletter or report which Green-Schools or the Department may produce, without payment to the entrant. The work may be edited or unedited, as long as the author is credited.

13. Prizes: There will be one overall national winner for each age category: each 1st place winner will receive a trophy, €100 book token, a whale or dolphin adoption from the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, 2nd place winners will receive a trophy and a €75 book token; 3rd place winners will receive a trophy and a €50 book token. All winners will receive a printed booklet with their published entry. Additional or equivalent prizes may be offered subject to availability at the discretion of Green-Schools Ireland.

Entry to the competition constitutes full and unconditional acceptance of these Terms & Conditions.

Any competition queries can be directed to the Global Citizenship Marine Environment Team at marine@greenschoolsireland.org.