



VOICEBOX

AWARDS 2025

Information for Teachers and School Practitioners

What is VoiceBox?

VoiceBox is a national joke competition for primary school children developed by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), designed to raise awareness of the joy and importance of communication. It is a fun way to share serious messages about how we can enhance the speech, language, and communication skills of all children, so they can thrive in education, improve their wellbeing, and experience a positive future.

All primary schools in Scotland are invited to nominate one joke from their school for the 2025 VoiceBox Awards. We will shortlist the best joke from each local authority area and the finalists will be invited, along with their parent/guardian or teacher, to the Scottish Parliament on 5 June 2025 to take part in the National Final. At the final event, participants will tell their jokes to a panel of judges and an audience of MSPs and guests, competing for the chance to win some exciting prizes!

Timeline



WHY TAKE PART IN VOICEBOX?

VoiceBox offers an opportunity to focus on the fun aspects of communication and build children's communication and confidence. It's also a fun activity to get pupils enthused in the early months of the new year!

Prizes

All finalists attending the National Final will receive £100 worth of HarperCollins books.

Additional prizes will be awarded to the top three finalists:

- **the first place winner will receive a £100 toy gift card and £500 worth of Collins Big Cat books for their school**
- **the second place winner will receive a £75 toy gift card and £200 worth of Collins Big Cat books for their school**
- **the third place winner will receive a £50 toy gift card and £200 worth of Collins Big Cat books for their school**



IMPROVE PUPILS' COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Telling a joke is not only fun but also a highly advanced linguistic skill! It involves inference, strong receptive and expressive language, and good auditory memory. Pupils can practice communication, while keeping listeners engaged and delivering the punchline effectively. Preparing for the competition encourages them to consider language, the audience, and delivery. Practicing at home can also engage their families in a fun way, and pupils can take part in judging or voting for your school's nomination.

ENGAGING PUPILS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

With the final event being hosted by the Presiding Officer in the Scottish Parliament, VoiceBox can be used as a great way to introduce a discussion about what the Scottish Parliament does and how MSPs are elected to represent their local area. Scottish Parliament Education Services offer a number of free online resources for schools. Find out more here <https://www.parliament.scot/get-involved/education>.

PERFECT FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

VoiceBox is a great activity for a group of pupils in your school who have additional support needs. Perhaps you have a supported group of children with ASN who might want to hold their own mini VoiceBox competition as part of their activities with help from their teachers or classroom assistants. Your local speech and language therapist can help you include children with communication needs.



Who is VoiceBox for?

VoiceBox is open to children from P1 to P7. Children do not have to be especially confident in or have had any experience of public speaking. VoiceBox is about providing an inclusive way to build children's communication skills whatever their starting point. At previous competitions, we've seen great contributions from children with learning disabilities and children with communication aids. The only requirement is that they should be able to take part in the National Final, if your school's nominated joke is shortlisted. If they have any additional support needs, with your support, we will make sure they receive the adaptations and support they need to participate.

BENEFITS TO YOUR SCHOOL

If your school's nominated joke is shortlisted to compete in the National Final, your pupil will get the chance to represent your school, attend the final at the Scottish Parliament, meet with MSPs and appear in the media. We will be able to assist with travel costs for the pupil and the accompanying parent/guardian or teacher attending the National Final.

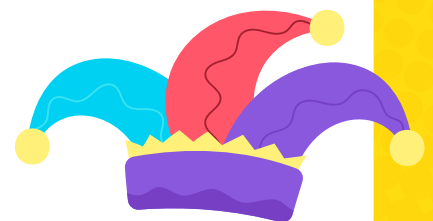
The top three finalists could win up to £500 worth of Collins Big Cat books for their school.

VoiceBox offers a great platform to showcase your school to your local community and elected representatives.

How can I get involved?

Last year, we saw several schools run their own internal competitions, some organised by their pupil councils. Your school can choose how to run its own VoiceBox competition to suit your pupils. You may just have one pupil who is keen to enter, or you may feel it would suit a particular class or year group. You may want to open it up to your whole school.

The deadline for entries is **1 April 2025**. You can submit your school's entry [here](#): Please note that we will only accept one entry from each school to be considered for the National Final.



VoiceBox TOOLKIT

Below are links to lots of additional resources your school can use to run a VoiceBox competition.

You can access the toolkit at <https://www.rcslt.org/scotland/voicebox/#section-2>

THE TOOLKIT INCLUDES:

1. A4 VoiceBox poster

Invite pupils to join in VoiceBox by putting posters up around your school.

[Click here to download the poster.](#)

2. LETTER TO PARENTS

If you need to inform parents that their child is taking part in VoiceBox our letter tells them everything they need to know about the competition and why your school is taking part. Fill in the details for your school on the form and copy and paste the text onto school letterhead or into an email.

[Click here to download.](#)

3. LETTER TO PUPIL COUNCIL

If your school has a pupil council, VoiceBox offers a great project for them to take on. Members of the pupil council can take ownership of promoting the competition in your school and running whatever style of event they feel best suits their fellow pupils.

[Click here to download a template letter you can send your pupil council inviting them to participate.](#)

4. LETTER TO LOCAL COUNCILLORS OR MSP

Inviting your local councillors or MSP to attend your school's VoiceBox competition is the perfect opportunity to engage with local decision makers and inform them of the importance of supporting children's communication needs.

You can find your school's local councillors by entering your postcode here <https://www.mygov.scot/elections/local-council-elections-and-by-elections> and your local MSP here <https://www.parliament.scot/msps>.

[Click here to download a template letter that you can use to invite your local politicians.](#)

Fill in the details for your school on the form, and copy and paste the text onto school letterhead or into an email.

5. PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATE

Wrap up your VoiceBox competition by presenting each pupil with a certificate for taking part. Just print out the certificate and fill in the pupil's name in the space provided. If your MSP or councillor is attending, they could even hand out the certificates.

[Click here to download a certificate template.](#)



FAQs

Who are the RCSLT?

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists is a membership organisation, representing 1,500 speech and language therapists in Scotland and around 22,000 across the UK. VoiceBox is a great way for us to celebrate the importance of communication and highlight this to MSPs, councillors and other decision-makers.

How many entries can I submit?

Each school can only submit one entry. Entries can be submitted [here](#).

What format should I submit the jokes in?

Jokes can be submitted in written, audio or video format. All entries will be reviewed by internal judges.

What sort of jokes can the pupils tell?

The children can tell jokes about anything they want – we'd love to see lots of creativity! However, please make sure the jokes are age appropriate and no longer than a 1 minute. Bare in mind that jokes will have to be performed in front of a live audience at the final.

Can I post about VoiceBox on social media?

Yes! We'd love to see how your school is getting involved in VoiceBox. Our social media handles are:

X - @rcsltscot / Instagram - @voicebox_rcslt

When using social media, please remember to tag our relevant handles and use the hashtag **#VoiceBox2025**

Will the pupils entries be posted on social media or other online media?

We will not post or share any pupils' details without parent/guardian permission.

How many people can accompany each finalist?

Unfortunately, due to capacity at Parliament, only one adult can company each finalist. If a child needs more than one adult because of a support need or otherwise, please contact us ahead of the final.

We will have a professional photographer taking photos throughout the day and we can share photos of your finalist with parents/teachers after the competition.

Will you support with travel costs to get to the final?

Yes. Last year we had finalists from as far as Shetland and Orkney. We will support with travel costs and logistics.

How can I find out more about the final?

Once we have selected the finalists, we will contact you with more details about the final.

Where are the terms and conditions?

Our terms and conditions are found [here](#).

I have a question that wasn't answered here.

No problem! Contact us on voicebox@rcslt.org or visit [RCSLT website voicebox](#) to find out more.