



**ISA**  
FILM AND  
ANIMATION  
COMPETITION

Open to EYFS - KS5

# DEADLINE

Thursday 14 May 2026

Competition open to ISA Members' schools only  
Visit the ISA website for more information

[isaschools.org.uk](http://isaschools.org.uk) | [isaarts@isaschools.org.uk](mailto:isaarts@isaschools.org.uk)

**ISA**  
ARTS

# ISA Film and Animation Competition 2026

## Rules and Guidelines

The ISA Film and Animation Competition is a fantastic opportunity for pupils of all ages to use both creative and technical skills. Students are invited to make their own moving image work in any genre - from digital animation and stop motion, to silent film, documentary or video art.

### Eligibility

Only schools whose Head is a Member with ISA are eligible to enter ISA competitions. Any pupils competing must be on the main school's admissions register, on the date of the event.

Our year groups are based on the UK national curriculum, for more information and to check the correct year group for your students see [here](#). Please ensure you enter pupils according to the UK system, even if your own school's age group system differs.

We encourage schools to run their own competition in house and submit their successful entries in the competition. Group and individual entries are allowed however, the same individuals cannot enter more than once. Group entries do not have a limit of pupils.

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities accessible, we welcome applications from all pupils, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities. If your pupil(s), those with an EHCP or on the school's SEND register, are working at a level that differs from their age group's key stage, or if your school or student focuses on development and skills rather than year groups, please contact us.

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please notify us at the earliest opportunity so we can provide the document accordingly, if required.

### Competition Categories

Each school may submit a maximum of six entries in section A (Animation) and six entries in section B (short film), so twelve entries in total. Entries must be maximum 3 minutes in length. There is no minimum length. Please note that the year groups will be combined the judging process.

#### A. Animation

The pieces can be any form of animation, e.g. stop motion animation, animated drawings, or using digital animation software such as Scratch.

- EYFS
- Year 1-2
- Year 3-4
- Year 5-6
- Year 7-9
- Year 10-13

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### B. Short Film

The pieces can be any type of short film.

- EYFS
- Year 1-2
- Year 3-4
- Year 5-6
- Year 7-9
- Year 10-13

Please note: Groups with mixed ages must be entered into the age category of the oldest pupil, please contact us if this is the case.

### How to enter

Entries must be submitted via the online entry form on the ISA website [here](#) by. Entries must be uploaded to YouTube, Vimeo or any other video platform and made available for anyone with the URL link.

### Judging criteria

- Demonstration of film making/animation skills
- Originality and creativity of ideas
- Plot and/or structure

### Rules

- All work submitted should be entered for the age category which applied when the work was produced and should not have been previously submitted.
- Staff must confirm that all work submitted is the student's own; if there has been any staff input, including technician assistance, this must be declared on the entry form.
- Entries must have been completed within the last year.
- All languages are welcome (English subtitles must be provided if in a foreign language). Films do not have to contain sound.
- By submitting your short film or computer animation entry you hereby agree that you have copyright of this production and have licencing for any copyrighted material (such as musical soundtrack, sound effects, stock footage).
- All the copyrights belong to the participant. However, ISA reserves the right to showcase the artworks on the ISA website and social media and to use them for marketing purposes. Please note that the name of the student might also be displayed.
- A working URL link must be given for the video (e.g., to YouTube or Vimeo). ISA won't accept any file to download, WeTransfer links, or broken links.

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- Please make sure that your videos are accessible to view by anyone with the link. YouTube videos will need to be unlisted, Vimeo videos will need to be unlisted and age rated, Google Drive will need to be set to 'Anyone with the link' and OneDrive needs to be set with 'share link' to 'anyone'.
- While we recognise the potential benefit of AI, we kindly request that participants are using it for inspiration and support and in line with their schools policies on its use, rather than using it to generate their films or animations. Please include details about the process of using AI under "any special circumstances" box if applicable, so judges are aware.
- Films and animations must have been produced within 12 months of the competition deadline. All entries must be submitted based on the pupil's age and key stage at the time of creation. in.

### **Tips for filmmakers**

- Remember that you are being judged on your filmmaking skills, not on performance.
- Be creative about the type of film you choose to make e.g. silent film, video art, or documentary.
- Think carefully about how you will use camera angles, lighting, sound (or absence of sound) and editing to get the message of your film across. These are some of the criteria that the judge will be looking at.
- Make sure your image and sound quality are clear.

If you have any questions, please contact [isaarts@isaschools.org.uk](mailto:isaarts@isaschools.org.uk)  
We look forward to receiving your entries.