



ISA

Band
Competition



Open to KS1 - KS5

DEADLINE

Tuesday 12 May 2026

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

isaschools.org.uk | isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

ISA
ARTS

Playing and performing music helps to build students' confidence and mental wellbeing. The ISA Band Competition aims to inspire pupils to practice their musical skills, and to work together to produce a cohesive performance.

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.

Open to Year 1 - 13. This competition does not include choirs. Must be groups, no individual entries. We encourage in-house competitions to narrow down the entries.

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.

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.

Year Groups

Each school may submit up to three entries per year group maximum. Please submit mixed age groups into the oldest pupil's year group.

(Please note that some year groups might be combined for the judging process).

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6
- Year 7
- Year 8
- Year 9
- Year 10
- Year 11
- Year 12
- Year 13

1. Instrumental
2. Instrumental with vocals

How to enter

Entries must be submitted via the online form [here](#) on the ISA website by **Tuesday 12 May 2026**.

Schools are invited to film and submit a URL link of a performance - no more than 3 minutes and 30 seconds. Videos must not be edited as we need to be able to see the bands, groups and ensembles playing live in one take as if we were in the audience

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'.

Judging criteria

The following will be taken into consideration during the judging process:

- Pitch
- Rhythm
- Tone
- Musicality
- Stage Presence
- Teamwork/Ensemble Sound
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Rules and Guidelines

- This competition does not include purely vocal groups such as choirs
- Pupils can play from memory or with music
- Performances can be self-composed music or covers
- The video must not last longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds.
- Appropriate copyright permissions must be obtained by the school for music and the recording where required
- We encourage you to film a performance specifically for the competition. Please make sure that video and sound quality are clear enough for adjudication
- 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 pieces. Please include details about the process of using AI under "any special circumstances" box if applicable, so judges are aware.
- Pieces 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.

If you have any questions, please contact isaarts@isaschools.org.uk