

## Hedgerow Heroes Competition Terms and Conditions

The terms and conditions outlined below govern all submissions to the Pilgrim's Europe funded Hedgerow Heroes competition. By entering the competition, you are acknowledging that you have read and accepted the terms and conditions.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful/Eco-Schools NI reserves the right to change the competition terms and conditions at any time.

### 1. Prize Details

In 2025/26, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful will recruit 11 schools to participate in the Hedgerow Heroes project funded by Pilgrim's Europe.

Each of the 11 selected schools will receive a free hedgerow and 3 workshop visits from KNIB staff:

- (i) Session 1 – Select where to plant your hedge and Workshop on Tree ID
- (ii) Session 2 – Hedgerow planting session
- (iii) Session 3 – Citizen Science Session with Workshop on Bird ID

- Each of the schools will also receive hedgerow-themed signage as part of the project to complement their new hedgerow.
- Selected schools will also receive one follow-up visit in Year 3 of the programme to provide ongoing advice and support on management and maintenance of their hedge.
- Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful will also create peer-to-peer mentoring and learning opportunities between schools engaged in the Hedgerow Heroes project.
- We shall encourage all winning schools to work closely with the Education Authority and their grounds maintenance team to ensure the long-term success of their hedgerow.

### 2. Eligibility

- Any school in Northern Ireland can apply to the Hedgerow Heroes project.
- Workshops are suited to P5 upwards. We cannot accept applications for younger age groups due to the physical nature of this project.
- We can accept multiple applications from different classes in one school, but please be aware that no more than one class per school (or a mixed class group of 30 students) will be able to participate in the project, even where multiple class applications are received from one school.
- Please be aware that **preference will be given to schools with an area of natural environment nearby**, such as a woodland, park or garden, as this is where the hedgerows will have the highest benefit for biodiversity recovery by extending and connecting habitat.
- Applications must be completed and submitted by teachers or school staff who are aged 18+. However, the main activities in the competition should be student -led.

- Applications must be completed in full and both requirements (i. field sketch & ii. writing/short story) must be received via email for applications to be considered.
- If successful, **any major works to the school grounds must be declared at the beginning of the project** to ensure that the hedgerow can be planted in the right location.

### 3. Usage Rights

By entering the competition, you grant Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and Pilgrim's Europe the non-exclusive right to reproduce students' art work or stories for any purpose at any time in any form of media. Personal details of any students shall not be shared unless permission is granted.

### 4. Data Protection

The data that you share via your application will be stored securely and safely. We will not use your data for purposes beyond the Hedgerow Heroes project. Learn how we safeguard your data by reading our [Privacy Policy](#).

### 5. Entry Guidelines

The competition application form must be completed by a teacher or staff member of the school who is over the age of 18.

Each teacher/staff member must also submit the following two requirements, which are to be completed by one or more students from their class/classes.

Class to submit **one of each of the requirements** below:

#### Requirement 1. **One field sketch of your school site completed by pupil(s)**

Sketches/drawings should be of habitats and animals you find on your school grounds.

Prompt questions:

- Do you have a hedge on your school grounds already?
- Is there a woodland nearby?
- What wildlife-friendly things do you do in your school?
- What wildlife have you seen on your school grounds?

Notes:

- You can annotate your drawing
- Your drawing can be coloured or black and white

***Please submit the field sketch as a JPEG image.***

#### Requirement 2. **One short story OR 2 x written paragraphs completed by pupil(s)**

Writing should be inspired by:

- Why you want to protect the plants and animals in your school grounds and
- How you think a hedgerow would help wildlife in your area.
- The sights, sounds, smells and feelings a hedgerow might inspire.

***You can submit your short story/piece of writing by filling in the box in the application document or attach a Word doc to your application email.***

**Deadline for submissions is 12 noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

**Completed applications should be sent to:**  
[Emily.taylor@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](mailto:Emily.taylor@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org)

## **6. Judging**

A panel of judges will select the 11 schools to partake in the first year of the Hedgerow Heroes project. The judging panel will be made up of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and Pilgrim's Europe staff, along with a colleague from an external environmental organisation.

The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the competition's judging and/or organisation.

The winners will be selected based on the quality of their application along with evidence of proximity to high quality green space for nature, such as a woodland, greenbelt or park.

## **7. Announcement of Winners**

The winning schools will be contacted by email or telephone as soon as possible after the judging has closed, at the latest by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Winning schools shall be publicly announced via social media and other Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful/Eco-Schools channels.

**Workshops shall begin promptly after the announcement of winners**, so it is important that the teacher/staff member who applied to the competition monitors their emails regularly.