



PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHER AWARDS

NOMINATION GUIDANCE

UPDATED MARCH 2023



WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHER AWARDS?

Each year, the Primary Science Teacher Awards (PSTAs) celebrate amazing science teachers across the UK. These are awarded by the Primary Science Teaching Trust, and recognise teaching from early years school education through all primary years (3 to 11 years old). Winners become part of our Primary Science Teacher College of over 200 talented teachers, and receive other benefits as outlined below.

Primary Science Teacher Awards are open to all practising primary school teachers (full or part-time) who:

- [are innovative and creative in teaching science](#)
- [inspire colleagues and contribute to developing science in their school and beyond](#)
- [engage pupils in the excitement and fascination of science](#)

PSTT is committed to making equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging part of everything we do. We believe that primary science teaching benefits from having a diverse and inclusive workforce. We positively encourage nominations from all backgrounds.

WHY NOMINATE A TEACHER?

Teachers do incredible work by raising standards by raising standards and inspiring children to achieve in science. Those who excel in challenging circumstances, and those who go above and beyond what is normally expected, deserve to be celebrated. By nominating an outstanding teacher, you help ensure their achievements are recognised.

Winners receive:

- [£1,000 prize money for the teacher](#)
- [Membership of the PSTT Primary Science Teacher College* as a PSTT Fellow](#)
- [Additional science resources for their school, kindly donated by TTS](#)
- [A year's ASE membership, with thanks to the Association for Science Education](#)

*our network of award-winning teachers

WHO CAN MAKE A PSTA NOMINATION?

Teacher may nominate themselves, or anyone involved in primary education* who is able to provide evidence that the teacher nominated is exceptional may complete the nomination form.

All nominations may include a written supporting statement from one other professional who has worked with the nominee. Whilst this is not a requisite, self-nominees are advised to submit such a supporting statement.

*Representatives of commercial organisations are not permitted to make nominations. Please see FAQs

HOW DO I SUBMIT A NOMINATION?

Please visit our website, pstt.org.uk, to access the online nomination form.

The nomination form consists of three sections:

- [Nominee details](#)
- [Nominator and supporter details \(where applicable\)](#)
- [The proposal](#)

All three sections must be completed to submit a nomination.

You will need to set up an account before starting your nomination. This will ensure that you can start the form and come back to it at a later date, saving progress until your submission. You will be able to log in and continue completing the form from any device.

You may wish to prepare content in a separate document before entering it into the website. On the next page you will find the main submission questions as this may help with gathering information to submit in your nomination.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SUBMITTING A NOMINATION?

Once submitted, you will receive an automatic notification that the nomination has been received.

Copies of all nominations are held by PSTT until the submission deadline in January each year; the year's deadline is provided on the website.

Any submissions received after the deadline are automatically entered into the next year's awards.

All nominations are independently reviewed by at least 2 panellists and their thoughts are shared with the full panel within a month of the closing date. Nominators will be informed whether or not their nominees have been shortlisted by the end of this month. Note that any nominee who is not self-nominated will not be informed if they have not been shortlisted - this information is only shared with the nominator.

[All shortlisted nominees will be visited in their schools later in the spring term or early summer term as part of the final selection process. During this visit, nominees will be expected to teach a science lesson, and we will meet with both the nominee and someone from the SLT \(usually the headteacher\) to discuss the nomination further.](#)

We recognise that all shortlisted nominees have demonstrated excellence in their nominations and that this in itself is a great achievement.

We make a final decision after these visits and PSTA winners will be notified at the end of the completed visit schedule.

WHAT EVIDENCE IS REQUIRED IN THE NOMINATION?

Primary Science Teacher Awards recognise outstanding primary science teachers; those whose commitment and dedication is beyond that expected of, for example, a good science subject leader. A nominee must have been a science subject leader and must be currently teaching science to at least one class in a specific school on a regular basis.

PSTA winners are not 'typical', and it is therefore essential that nominators provide specific rather than generalised examples of ways that nominees' have:

- been creative or innovative
- had an impact in their own classroom
- led and impacted outcomes in primary science within a school
- supported colleagues in their school
- supported other teachers outside this school
- interacted with other organisations or developed resources for other teachers
- shown commitment to their own professional development and primary science more generally

Each paragraph below gives an overview of what should be included, along with some examples that have been cited in the past in italics – this is not a definitive list or a set of suggestions. You must include examples in your form but you do not have to provide the same level of detail in every section.

In a nomination, you should include **brief examples of creative/innovative lessons**. For example, you might talk about lessons that have developed the children's skills in working scientifically or engaged reluctant learners, that have helped the children understand a difficult concept or encouraged them to see science careers as a positive choice.

Past examples have included: describing lessons with a specific focus on diversity to help develop children's agency in science; children engaging with a scientist from a local university or organisation and undertaking project work related to this; using drama, stories or opportunities for talk; using a stimulating hook into the lesson or linking science lessons to other subjects such as computing, art, music or history.

Examples of events or **activities that have raised the profile of science** for the pupils and their parents could be included. The teacher may have made extensive links with STEM professionals or organised other enrichment activities. Ensure you provide details of the nominee's involvement in the process and the benefits of the activities.

Past examples have included: organising science events that engage parents with their children, such as star-gazing nights or science fairs; children sharing their science learning in Great Science Share for Schools events and inter-school competitions arranged by the nominee; teachers making extensive links with STEM professionals or organising other enrichment activities that go beyond one-off activities or talks.

You must include examples of ways that the teacher has **supported colleagues both within and beyond the school**.

Past examples have included: providing specific CPD for other staff in the school, sharing creative ideas for inspiring interest in the children, or trialling ideas that have improved outcomes for the children. Nominees have written articles for magazines, journals, or blogs, run workshops at conferences such as

local or national ASE conferences, network meetings, across schools in a multi-academy trust, etc. They have run courses for organisations such as STEM Learning or a Science Learning Partnership. Fellows typically have been identified as those developing their own ideas and sharing these in addition to sharing resources and ideas of others.

It is important to note the **impact the teacher has had on science teaching and learning** from these interactions.

You should include ways that the teacher has demonstrated their commitment to primary science more generally. For example, the teacher may have undertaken specific CPD or become involved in groups that specifically champion primary science.

Past examples have included: undertaking post-graduate study related to primary science; involvement in ASE and other support groups; hub leadership for PSQM; high social media presence.

For anyone self-nominating, we strongly recommend asking a colleague to write a supporting statement. This would generally be from a headteacher, but in all cases should be someone who knows your strengths as a teacher really well. This statement should be completed as a Word document or pdf, have a maximum upload size of 8MB and should be no more than 1 side of A4 using 12pt font. It will be uploaded within the online form.

PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

In addition to personal details of the nominee and nominator, the following sections will need to be completed on the website form:

- Classroom practice** - examples of creating engaging learning opportunities, inducing creativity in the learner, ensuring progression for all children, developing children's agency in science.
- Impact within nominee's own classroom**
- Subject leadership** - examples of support for and impact on colleagues within the school; details of impact on development of science within the school and the wider outcomes for children.
- Innovation (both within own classroom and beyond)**
- Support for and impact on teachers beyond own school**
- Commitment to primary science**

We recommend that each section contains a minimum of 150 words and no longer than 400 words.

How many PSTAs are given each year?

We aim to maintain a consistent standard in our awards each year, so the number of PSTAs reflects this. We are not committed to offering a specific number but typically, we find between 6 and 12 PSTA winners each year.

Can PSTAs be given to teachers who are no longer working in schools?

No - when nominated, the nominee must be employed by a school and teach primary science to at least one class on a regular basis. Occasionally, teachers have moved into other roles between the nomination and the decision-making process. If shortlisted, we can recognise their work when they were teaching with a PSTA *provided they are able to teach a lesson in a school as part of the regular process*. We cannot consider former teachers who are later nominated for an award.

Can senior managers, for example headteachers, be considered for a PSTA?

Yes - but they must meet our criteria in the same way and will be expected to teach a lesson if they are shortlisted.

If I nominate myself, will this be treated the same way as if someone else nominated me?

Yes - we will consider the evidence within the nomination in the same way. In all cases, when we shortlist candidates we visit the school in which they are working to watch a lesson, speak to the nominee and speak to someone from the senior leadership team (usually the headteacher) before making decisions about an award.

I was not shortlisted/I was shortlisted but did not receive a PSTA. Can I apply/be nominated again in another round?

Yes - we are looking for exceptional teachers and sometimes, a nominee simply needs more experience. We welcome re-nominations in a later round.

Do you provide feedback?

We give generalised feedback to shortlisted teachers who do not receive awards.

Can I get further advice on completing the form?

We can offer general guidance about submitting a nomination, the year's timeline and processes; please contact the PSTT office via info@pstt.org.uk

For questions about content to be included on the form, please note that we generally cannot give specific advice, but you are welcome to contact Sue Martin via sue.martin@pstt.org.uk

Can I be nominated by a commercial organisation?

No - representatives of commercial organisations are not permitted to make nominations. If a nomination for a teacher is received from a headteacher (or other appropriate person), the PSTA panel cannot consider any evidence in the nomination that is linked to a commercial organisation (whether or not this organisation gains financially from the school making the nomination) or that could provide publicity for that organisation from any subsequent Award.

No benefit or endorsement may be granted to, conferred upon or inferred by a commercial organisation or any of its products through its association with a PSTA nominee, Award winner or PSTT Fellow (unless agreed by contract or through a Memorandum of Understanding with that organisation).

