



Future Sparks



School Impact Awards

FAQs

What are the AIB Future Sparks School Impact Awards?

The AIB Future Sparks School Impact Awards celebrate the skills nurtured through the AIB Future Sparks Programme and beyond and empower schools and students to create sustainable communities through positive change.

Why are AIB doing this?

AIB is organising the AIB Future Sparks School Impact Awards to celebrate the skills nurtured through the AIB Future Sparks Programme and to empower schools and students to build sustainable communities through positive change. AIB aims to inspire the next generation of changemakers and foster a culture of innovation, responsible citizenship, and contribute towards a sustainable future.

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all Republic of Ireland post-primary schools. All entries must be submitted by a teacher or principal within the school.

What categories are there?

Schools can submit a maximum of one entry in each of the three categories or 'pillars'. The three pillars of a sustainable community are: Environmental, Social, and Financial. Schools will also be asked to confirm the group size they are entering – a Large Group (35+ students), a Small Group (2-34 students), or an Individual (1 student).

What is eligible?

Anything that contributes to the community is eligible; the more strongly aligned to one of the three pillars (Environmental, Social, and Financial) the better. This could be an environmental initiative, a social programme, or a financial literacy campaign – among others. It can happen any time within the last year, from March 2025 to February 2026. Find more information and examples here or register to receive a participation pack with supporting materials.

What are the prizes?

The prize breakdown includes €10,000 for the Overall Winning School, €2,000 for Mixed/Large Groups, €1,250 for Small Groups, €1000 for Individual Award, plus additional prizes.

What is the deadline for submissions?

The deadline for submissions is 13th February 2026 but you can submit any time. Submissions are open now.

How do I register my school?

To register your school, visit aibfuturespark.ie/awards or contact the team at futurespark@realnation.ie or on 01 522 4880 for assistance.

What happens after I register?

After registering, schools will receive a participation pack containing more information and student resources to support your school along the way to submitting.

Can we submit multiple projects from our school?

The number of entries submitted by a school is limited to one entry per pillar (maximum of three entries in total). In the case that two or more schools are collaborating on an activity, each individual school must submit their own submission; joint entries will not be permitted.

Can students collaborate with other schools or organisations?

Students can collaborate with other schools or organisations. However, if multiple schools are involved, each school must have their own submissions entered by a teacher in that school.

Who will be judging the submissions?

The submissions will be judged by a panel of experts and professionals in relevant fields, including representatives from AIB, charity and educational organisations. The full panel will be announced later in the year.

What is a sustainable community?

A sustainable community is a living environment that meets the needs of its current residents without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs. It balances economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental responsibility, aiming for resource conservation, social inclusion, and a high quality of life for all residents. It fosters a healthier and more resilient future for everyone.