

## SciFest @School 2025/2026



### SciFest

SciFest is Ireland's largest STEM fair programme for second-level students. SciFest's mission is to ensure every second-level student has an opportunity to develop critical STEM skillsets through participation in a STEM fair, irrespective of their ability, background or circumstance. SciFest operates across the whole island of Ireland and throughout the entire school year and, being locally and regionally based and free to enter, is highly inclusive and accessible.

### SciFest@School

The SciFest@School strand of the SciFest programme was introduced in 2011 in five second-level schools and over the years participation in SciFest@School has become recognised as an invaluable educational experience which promotes not only STEM but also an interdisciplinary approach to solving real-world problems. A SciFest@School fair can be as big or as small as suits the individual school. Lists of schools hosting SciFest@School fairs each year can be viewed on the SciFest website [www.scifest.ie](http://www.scifest.ie).

### Why Host a SciFest@School?

A SciFest@School STEM fair will:

- Afford a safe platform for teachers to encourage inquiry-based learning in the classroom and beyond
- Act as a suitable in-house activity/module, particularly for Transition Year students.
- Continue to encourage students, no matter their ability, background or circumstance, to be inspired and engage with inquiry-based learning in STEM
- For the hundred-plus schools which have hosted a SciFest@School fair in recent years and for which SciFest is now an integral part of their school calendar, ensure that the momentum for STEM in the school will be maintained.

### How do I Register for a SciFest@School?

- In order for us to support your SciFest@School event it's important that you complete a registration form. To access the registration form please click [here](#). The form is available in both Irish and English. To select your preferred version please select from the drop-down menu in the top right hand corner of the form. Upon receipt of a completed registration form the school will be provided with a number of posters.

### Who will Judge the Projects?

- Depending on the size of the fair the organising teacher is asked to recruit a number of external judges. Parents and past pupils with a STEM background, retired STEM teachers and representatives from local industry make excellent judges. A representative from SciFest will attend, if possible, on the day of the fair to help with the judging.

### How does SciFest Support a SciFest@School STEM Fair?

- Resource materials to support the organisation of a SciFest@School STEM fair are available in the resources section of the [SciFest website](#); an increasing number of these are also available in Irish.
- Schools registering for their first SciFest@School STEM fair and teachers organising a fair for the first time receive a SciFest@School teacher's pack (also downloadable from the [website](#)). Resources in the pack include judging guidelines, a module for first years, sample projects, posters and a TY module.

- Each participating student receives a SciFest@School certificate
- Each participating student receives two ‘freebies’, e.g. SciFest pen, SciFest bookmark, SciFest ruler
- SciFest will provide up to four awards which, for suitable projects, may include:
  - Award 1:** SciFest First Place Award - rosette plus €15 One4all token to each winner (maximum 3 per group)
  - Award 2:** SciFest Runner-up Award - rosette plus €15 One4all token to each winner (maximum 3 per group)
  - Award 3:** SciFest 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award - rosette for each winner (maximum 3 per group)
  - Award 4:** EirGrid Cleaner Climate Award - rosette for each winner (maximum 3 per group)
  - Award 5:** Keenova STEM Excellence Award - rosette for each winner (maximum 3 per group)
  - Award 6:** SciFest Award – This may be given for innovation, display, highly commended, chemistry, physics, etc.

**Note:** Normally only one of each of the Awards 1-6 will be provided to a school.

- A school completing five SciFest@School STEM fairs (one fair per year) will receive a SciFest@School Silver STEM Award (framed certificate and a digital badge for the school website) in recognition of their commitment to supporting STEM in their school. After completing ten SciFest@School STEM fairs (one fair per year) a school will receive a SciFest@School Gold STEM Award (framed certificate).

### SciFest@School STEM Fair Resources



SciFest@School Certificate available in English and Irish



SciFest@School Awards



SciFest@School Resources



SciFest School STEM Digital Badges



SciFest School STEM Award Certificates



## SciFest@School 2023 Online Evaluation

Comments from teachers:

- *'With the introduction of lots of small prizes and bringing other classes down to visit SciFest@School during the judging it has really raised the profile of SciFest@School in the school. We had a lot of 2nd years this year re-entering from last year, some of whom had not won a prize the 1st year and wanted to try again as they loved the experience.'*
- *'Students that have never got involved in competitions in school get involved as it is seen as something that is achievable and they get the chance to test out a theory about something that they are interested in. You see their confidence grow as they compete the project and especially after been judged.'*
- *'Students were the most independent they had been to date in their science learning. They were very engaged and had fun from start to finish. They had practice with the scientific method but also presenting their ideas and working as a team.'*
- *'Teamwork, collaboration, grit, resilience, learning to code, presenting, being responsible to each other, designing software. Brilliant experience.'*
- *'I think SciFest is a very accessible and open event for any student to participate in and for a school to run. Everyone involved is very helpful, approachable and all students can take part. Students feel their projects are valued and it's a great opportunity for all.'*

### Contact Details:

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