

‘The Science of Clean Water’

Inspiration for Teachers



Background Information

The science of clean water

Water is essential for life and here in Northern Ireland we are lucky to have a plentiful supply of fresh water in our rivers, lakes and reservoirs which not only provide wonderful habitats for wildlife but also are a vital supply of our tap water.

We all rely on clean safe water every day to keep us hydrated and healthy but before it reaches our taps this water must be cleaned and made safe to drink. The treatment process makes sure all dirt and germs are removed and uses lots of science to ensure the water is safe before reaching our taps.

Over 100 Scientists work for NI Water and they have the very important job of checking and testing the water before it reaches our taps. In fact they test the water over 120,000 times every year, taking water samples from our reservoirs, treatment works and homes and bringing it to our NI Water Science Labs to test it, making sure we get safe quality water to our taps every time we use it.

This year we would like pupils to help us celebrate the Science of Clean Water and the important role scientists play in ensuring clean, safe water comes out of the tap.

Can you draw a poster celebrating how science and our scientist help in this important job of keeping the water from our taps safe to drink.

Use our scientist's presentation to see the different scientists who work for NI Water and the special jobs they do to keep our water safe.

Discover how our water is cleaned and how science plays an important part in this with our new Science at the Treatment Works video –request access to this video by clicking [HERE](#)

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'The Science of Clean Water' Competition Guidelines

Instructions for Teachers:

1. Competition is open to all KS2 pupils with a category for Special Needs Schools.
2. Prizes for each primary school year group P5, P6 and P7 and for the Special Needs Schools category (all ages groups):
 - a) First prize - Monetary donation for the winning school in each category/ with a "goody bag" for winning pupil.
 - b) Second prize - Monetary donation for the winning school in each category/ with a "goody bag" for winning pupil.
 - c) Third prize - Monetary donation for the winning school in each category/ with a "goody bag" for winning pupil.
3. The pupils are asked to draw a poster to celebrate the Science of Clean Water and the important role scientists play in ensuring clean, safe water comes out of the tap.
4. Posters **MUST** be A3 size and hand drawn (**we cannot accept any ICT posters**).
5. Each poster **MUST** have the pupils name and class clearly written on the back of the poster alongside the school's name and address. **Unfortunately, any posters, which do not include this information, will be disqualified.**
6. Entries should reach NI Water by 5pm Friday 23rd May 2025.

7. Entries must be sent to NI Water, Schools Competition, Education Team, c/o Reception Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE. Or can be scanned and emailed to education@niwater.com
8. Please complete the following form [HERE](#) on submitting your entries via post or email to ensure we can account for all entries received and all pupils entering will receive a NI Water Science Bookmark on receipt on this form.
9. NI Water is not responsible for any entries lost in transit. Entries will not be returned.
10. Winning schools will be notified of the results w/c 2nd June 2025.
11. Prizes will be distributed at an Award Ceremony at NI Water's Moyola Water Treatment Works, Magherafelt on Tuesday 17th June 2025 from 10am-1.30pm
12. Winners will be required to participate in publicity surrounding the competition.
13. We may wish to reproduce the winning submissions for promotional materials or publicity purposes.