



World Town Planning Day 2021 Schools' Competition

Briefing pack for teachers

The annual Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) competition for schools is open for entries!

The RTPI and the competition celebrate the power of change and developing new sustainable ideas for the places we live and work. The competition follows World Town Planning Day and this year focuses on climate change and urban regeneration.

This briefing pack helps you support your pupils through the competition. It provides background information and why the school should enter, curriculum links, entry rules, advice on success and the competition task.

The closing date for the competition is 10th December 2021.
Entries are to be sent to rtpi@educationcompany.co.uk

Why enter the RTPI World Town Planning Day competition?

For many, there has never been a greater need for considered action to save the planet. COP26 has brought together leaders from across the world to tackle the current climate crisis; town planning has a **unique and significant part** to play in encouraging people and places to be more sustainable and more resilient in the face of an ever-changing climate.

This year's World Town Planning Day competition is fantastic way to bring COP26 and climate change issues to your pupils whilst linking it to the curriculum.

Newsworthy and relevant: Helping pupils digest news stories on climate change and sustainability and research their local area – plus links to teaching in the classroom.

Innovative: Pupils have an opportunity to 'think outside the box' and reflect on how they want their local environment to develop and how land and buildings should be used.

Voice: Practising debating and communication skills, and scrutinising the decisions that impact on the local environment.

Flexible: The task is adaptable across many curricular themes, topics and discussion points. It could be included within the classroom, set as voluntary (or stretch) homework, or as part of an after-school club.

Employability: Helping you and the school to meet government benchmarks, support teaching on careers and introduce pupils to different job roles and pathways into the world of work.

Celebrating success: Prizes and vouchers for winning schools and pupils.

Closing date:
10th December 2021



What is World Town Planning Day?

World Town Planning Day (or [World Urbanism Day](#)) brings together professional planners and the general public to celebrate the ideals of community. Founded in 1949 it unites officials and citizens to advance public and professional interest in planning, both locally and abroad. It is held on 8th November each year.

What is COP26?

[COP26](#) is the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference. It is being held in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November 2021. The conference seeks to 'unite the world to tackle climate change' and is considered one of the last chances for governments to all agree how we can live more sustainably.

[See this presentation from Sir David Attenborough.](#)

Curriculum links

The competition poses a creative academic challenge for pupils and gives you an opportunity to link to many curriculum themes and topics, including:

Geography



Climate Change



Design and Technology



STEM



History



Sociology



Citizenship



ICT



Careers



The competition is open to all schools across the world.

As examples, however, you may find that the competition usefully fits within the following modules across specific 12-15 age curricula in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

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Subject	Module	Curriculum Level
Geography	Human and physical geography: human geography relating to: population and urbanisation; international development; economic activity in the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors; and the use of natural resources	Key Stage 3
Geography	Human and physical geography: understand how human and physical processes interact to influence and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on the effective functioning of natural systems	Key Stage 3
Social Studies: Geography	Human Environments: Population, distribution, growth and change.	Nationals 4
Social Studies: Geography	Human Environments: Urban Environments	Nationals 4
Social Studies: Geography	Global Issues: Key topics include climate change; the impact of human activity on the natural environment	Nationals 4
Geography	Geographic perspective: global change	International Baccalaureate SL/HL
Geography	Population distribution: changing population	International Baccalaureate SL/HL
Geography	Global climate: vulnerability and resilience	International Baccalaureate SL/HL
Citizenship	Diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding	Key Stage 4
Citizenship	The different ways in which a citizen can contribute to the improvement of their community	Key Stage 4
Chemistry	The production of carbon dioxide by human activity and the impact on climate – this is a key causal mechanism for climate change	Key Stage 4
Biology	The importance of plant reproduction through insect pollination in human food security	Key Stage 4
Biology	How organisms affect, and are affected by, their environment, including the accumulation of toxic materials	Key Stage 3

Please note that **the competition is aimed at pupils at the 12-15 age category**, i.e. who are not yet undertaking formal examinations and who have yet to make decisions on subjects of study at English/Welsh/Northern Irish A-Level or Scottish Higher and Advanced Higher levels.

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Competition Task

Imagine that it is 2031, and that you are a keynote speaker at a future UN Climate Change conference (COP). It is again being held in the UK, this time in Cardiff.

You are working as a town planner and have come up with an idea for a new sustainable community near to where you live, and you are excited to share it with the conference delegates.

You are asked to create a visual presentation of your plan for a sustainable community, which includes everything you feel a community needs to thrive.

Your plan could be a poster or PowerPoint slides.

Remember to include:

- *Your first name and age.*
- *Your new name for the sustainable community, and a map to show where it is located near to where you live.*
- *Notes to explain the key features and why you think the sustainable community must have them in it.*
- *The main issue that your idea is trying to make better, and why you have chosen it.*

Examples and advice for success

- The pupils could complete as a project **in pairs or as individuals**.
- You could host a class 'competition' with the pupils and then get them to choose their top five which go forward to the competition.
- It could be assigned as homework for your pupils following a brief introduction to [planning](#) and [place making](#).
- Pupils are free to look at the RTPI website for information and [research](#), or view our [ABOUT PLANNING](#) guide.
- You could also look this "[How do we plan our world?](#)" video to find out what town planners, plus the [COP 26](#) website.
- The [BBC](#) have a very useful web page explaining **climate change**.
- Although there are lots of things we can do to reduce our carbon footprint, pupils should try to think about what **town planners** can do to help people make better choices as they go about their daily lives.
- Town planners can influence, for example, the physical environment, energy, transport, and waste management.
- Hear from a real-life [town planner online!](#)

Prizes

- Up to £50 voucher for individual winners, or shared between a winning pair
- Up to £100 for winning schools
- RTPI careers materials
- Offer of online mentoring session from RTPI Ambassador for top winners
- Prizes may also be awarded for best plan, and best community name

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RTPI Future Planners

Royal Town Planning Institute

Competition rules

1. All entries should be sent to rtpi@educationcompany.co.uk by 11:59am on Friday 10th December 2021.
2. **All entries must be submitted as pdfs.**
3. Entries can be individual or groups of no more than two pupils and must be the pupil's original work.
4. All entries must include a reference for any information that is not the pupil's.
5. All entries must include at least one photo, map or drawing to illustrate the ideas.
6. All entries must have the first name and age of the pupils clearly stated on the entry or in a supplementary document.
7. Entries should include a description and reasoning for the answers to the question and the impact the changes could have.
8. Entries should include some basic information about the topic being discussed or about the local area e.g. landscape, history, population, transport links.
9. We welcome entries from schools in the UK, Ireland and internationally.
10. **Please remember that submissions must include the first name and age of entrants, otherwise they cannot be judged.**

Data Protection statement

The details provided will be used solely to send you more information about the competition and RTPI education initiatives. You can view our [privacy policy](#).

The information you provide for this competition will be held securely on the RTPI's database and will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. RTPI will neither disclose, nor permit members of its staff to disclose, any confidential or personal information you provide unless required to do so by law. We would like to know the entrants' first name, age and use the submitted images and ideas for our promotional purposes. This may be published on the website. You can ask us to delete your data at any time. If you have the parent's consent for the child's data to be used in this way, please confirm that you are authorised to agree to this statement on the child's behalf when you submit the school's entries. Please ensure submissions include the first name and age of entrants.

About the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

The RTPI is the UK's leading planning body for spatial, sustainable and inclusive planning. It is the largest planning institute in Europe with over 25,000 members.

“We help our members to achieve their full potential and we strive to put planning and planners centre stage of the built environment professions”

Victoria Hills, Chief Executive

The RTPI is:

- A membership organisation and a Chartered Institute responsible for maintaining professional standards and accrediting world-class planning courses nationally and internationally.
- A charity whose charitable purpose is to advance the science and art of planning (including town and country and spatial planning) for the benefit of the public.
- A learned society.

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