



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade

January 2018



TO BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT, PRINCIPAL TEACHERS AND TEACHING STAFF OF PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND CEOs OF ETBs

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement 1998

The Good Friday Agreement, ratified in both Ireland and Northern Ireland in May 1998, has played a very significant role in creating peace on the island of Ireland since that time. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Education and Skills have organised a unique competition for primary schools, including special schools, and post-primary schools. More details about the Agreement itself can be found at <https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/northern-ireland/the-good-friday-agreement-and-today/>.

The competition is open to entries of a creative nature, using any medium that a school-goer wishes, based on the theme of ‘20 Years of Peace and Reconciliation on the island of Ireland’. Entries can be either text-based, such as poems, stories or reflective accounts, or they can be visual, such as drawings, films, paintings or posters. These suggestions are not meant to limit the creativity of our young people, but just as guiding ideas.

As entries must be submitted electronically, those based on text should be submitted as Word documents, with a copy also retained by the entrants themselves. Similarly, for entries using visual media, it is requested that a photograph or scan of the image be submitted, in PDF, JPEG or other low-to-medium resolution format. For visual entries that are subsequently shortlisted for consideration as possible prize-winners, the judges will request the actual drawing, painting or poster from the entrant in mid-April, before making final decisions.

An application cover page, containing entrants’ names, school details etc. can be downloaded by going to <https://www.education.ie/good-friday-competition/> and should be emailed with the entry itself. In all cases, queries (e.g. about submitting films) and applications should be sent by email to reconciliation@dfa.ie. The closing date for entries to this competition is **Tuesday, 10th April 2018**, which is also the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Judging will take place later in April and prize-winners will be informed after that.

It is intended to hold a special prize-giving ceremony as part of the commemoration of the ratification of the Good Friday Agreement, **in May 2018**. On that day, a total of five winners will be invited, with their families, to visit Iveagh House, Dublin and receive prizes from the Tánaiste and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. A prize fund of €2,000 is available for the competition, and it is also intended that the winning entries will be placed on the websites of the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Education and Skills.

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