

Schools Competition Judging Criteria

Rushmoor Community in Bloom's (RCiB) team of judges come from the local community. All of them look forward to seeing the creativity, effort and care your pupils have put into their entries.

Judges may take photographs during visits to share results on our website, social media and in promotional materials. **Schools must ensure photo consent forms are completed for any pupils who may appear in photographs.**

Best School Garden

Judges will be looking at the following elements:

Planning and Design

Does the garden have impact? Consider colour combinations, plant choices, heights, textures and overall layout. Containers will be considered where applicable.

Gardening Skill and Plant Quality

Are the plants healthy and flourishing, with no obvious signs of pests or disease? Is the space weed-free and well cared for? Judges will take into account how long plants have been established.

Sustainability

How is watering managed? Are there water-saving initiatives in place, such as water butts or grey water use?

Has thought been given to sustainable planting, for example a balance of herbaceous perennials and bedding plants?

Endeavour and Involvement

The amount of work and care involved will be recognised.

Have plants been grown from seed or plugs?

Is the garden tidy and litter free?

Is there evidence that pupils are involved in maintaining the green space?

Most Unusual Planted Container

Only one container per school will be judged. Please clearly identify the container you would like judged.

Judges will consider:

- Creativity and originality of the container
- Quality and health of planting
- Use of colour, texture and plant combinations
- Evidence of reuse or repurposing
- Overall presentation and maintenance

Design Your Own Garden

Entries must be A4 in size.

The design should include:

- Homes or habitats for wildlife (for example bird boxes or feeders)
- Flowers and vegetables
- A garden path
- A garden structure (for example a raised bed)
- A layout that could realistically be made into a real garden

Judges will be looking for creativity, thoughtfulness, understanding of growing and wildlife, and how clearly the design is presented.

Design entries should be sent to rcib@rvs.org.uk by **Friday 5th June 2026**.