

KS2 Teacher guidance booklet

Engaging resources and competition for year 3–6 pupils with great prizes



**Competition closes
30 April 2026**



What pupils will achieve by taking part

A chance to explore various jobs before pupils rule them out as unsuitable

PSHE and career-related learning to grow career aspirations

Increased awareness of NHS jobs and what they involve

Opportunity to develop core transferable skills such as creativity, teamwork and research

Most importantly, pupils will have a lot of fun creating their entries. Our national winner will also have the chance to see their entry displayed in their local community!

Together we can
make a difference!

stepintothens.nhs.uk/primary

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Welcome to the Step into the NHS competition!

As England's biggest employer, we're excited to tell you about our nationwide KS2 competition which supports learning about the careers of the future.

With more than 350 different roles making up our workforce, we want to open pupils' eyes and minds to the wide range of opportunities that are available for everyone.

We can help you meet the Department for Education's careers strategy by providing pupils with information about career opportunities, encouraging higher education aspirations and challenging gender stereotypes in STEM careers.

The competition encourages pupils from years 3-6 to explore the variety of diverse careers in the NHS and realise that anyone can do any job, regardless of their background. Pupils are tasked with choosing up to three different NHS jobs that really stand out and then telling us what they have learnt about them through a piece of artwork (painting, drawing or video for example) or writing (a poem, story or song).

Taking part in this competition provides you with free, flexible cross-curricular resources that can be built into your existing plans and schemes of work and be differentiated for pupils with SEND.

This pack provides you with all you need to take part.



One lesson launch

With the '[one lesson launch](#)' resource, you can deliver all the learning needed to enter the competition in just one hour.

You can either complete the lesson in one session and have pupils start their entries the same day, or break it into smaller activities throughout the week, allowing pupils to work on their entries at home. One of the benefits of the competition is the flexibility you have to integrate it within your current PSHE curriculum.

Part 1: Who am I?	Part 2: Discover NHS jobs	Part 3: Did you really know?	Part 4: Introducing the competition
Pupils complete a worksheet activity to identify their personal strengths and challenge any perceived barriers to careers.	Pupils undertake two activities to explore the wide range of jobs in the NHS. First, they watch a video of Danny's story to hear about the different NHS staff he encounters when he gets injured. Next, pupils can start matching NHS jobs with job descriptions, identifying key qualities for each job.	Pupils take a quick class quiz about the NHS to dispel misconceptions and stereotypes.	Pupils watch the introduction video and learn how to create a winning entry and enter the competition.
Learning outcomes: - Pupils are able to describe themselves and can talk positively about what they might like to do. - Pupils learn that anyone can choose any job, regardless of their gender or background.	Learning outcomes: - Pupils are able to describe a range of jobs within the NHS. - Pupils are able to describe some of the qualities that different jobs need.	Learning outcomes: - Pupils learn surprising facts about the NHS. - Pupils learn that everyone has the same rights to opportunities as everyone else.	Learning outcomes: - Pupils know about a wide variety of jobs in the NHS. - Pupils are inspired to start their entry and enter the competition.
 Time required: 15 mins	 Time required: 30 mins	 Time required: 5 mins	 Time required: 10 mins



Extension activities

If you'd like to spend more time with your pupils exploring the NHS and its various jobs, you can choose to complete these optional extension activities. They include expanded versions of tasks from the one lesson launch, as well as brand new lessons.



Your strengths and the NHS	Working in the NHS	History of the NHS	Technology in the NHS
Pupils explore what they're like and what they're good at. They'll also learn about people's rights to opportunities and about the NHS. Contains PowerPoint slides and two worksheets.	Pupils learn about the wide variety of NHS jobs in the community and can describe some of their skills and qualities. Contains PowerPoint slides and five worksheets.	Pupils step back in time and investigate how jobs have changed. Contains PowerPoint slides and two worksheets.	Pupils look into the future and think about developments in technology and how they could be used in the NHS. Contains PowerPoint slides and three worksheets.
Learning outcomes: - Pupils are able to describe themselves and can talk positively about what they might like to do. - Pupils know that anyone can choose any job, regardless of their gender; everyone has the same rights to opportunities as everyone else. - Pupils know about the NHS and the wide range of jobs within the NHS.	Learning outcomes: - Pupils will be able to identify different jobs in the community. - Pupils will be able to describe a range of jobs in the NHS. - Pupils will be able to describe some of the skills and qualities that different jobs need.	Learning outcomes: - Pupils understand that jobs, and how you do them, change over time and are impacted by developments in science and technology. - Pupils know that laws have been specially introduced that means everyone has the same right to job opportunities.	Learning outcomes: - Pupils understand that developments in technology impact how we work and what we can achieve. - Pupils understand the importance of technology in the NHS and what this could mean for future jobs.

Supporting resources

All of the above resources are accompanied by teacher guidance. The supporting resources supplement learning for pupils and help teachers deliver and differentiate the lessons. Contains: guide for families, certificate of participation, assembly planning grid, differentiation grid and collapsed curriculum grid. New for this year you can also find the step-by-step guide for pupils, entry planning template and a glossary.

Entering the competition

Once you have delivered the learning to your pupils through the one lesson launch and/or the optional extension activities, your pupils are ready to create their entries. They need to produce a piece of artwork or writing for the chance to win up to £50 worth of Amazon vouchers, a goody bag and see their entry displayed in their local community!

The challenge

We're challenging pupils to choose up to three different NHS jobs that really stand out and creatively tell us what they've learnt about them in their entry.

The brief

Pupils should explore the range of NHS jobs using our resources. The resources will help them choose the job(s) they want to focus on as part of their competition entry.

What they need to produce

- a piece of artwork (for example, a painting, drawing, model or video)
- or writing (for example a poem, story or song)

We are looking for the following in their entry:

- What their chosen job(s) do
- The key qualities or skills needed for the job(s)
- Their favourite thing about the job(s)

It is not part of the judging criteria, but your pupils may want to choose NHS job(s) that they haven't heard of. With more than 350 jobs, there are lots to choose from.

Pupils can explore our [Careers A-Z page](#) to discover just some of the jobs in more detail.

How to enter

- 📅 Entries must be received no later than **30 April 2026**.
- 👥 Pupils can enter individually or as a pair.
- 🌐 To submit your pupils' entries online, [visit the entry page](#) on our website.
- ✉ To enter by freepost, fill out the [Teacher Postal Entry form](#) and following the instructions on there. One form needs to accompany every batch/parcel of entries.
- 📷 If sending a photograph of the entry, make sure all of the information can be read clearly.
- 😊 **There's no need for the school to shortlist entries before sending.** We will enjoy looking through all of them!

For full competition rules please visit stepintothensh.nhs.uk/primary-schools



Judging criteria

Our expert panel of NHS judges are looking forward to seeing your pupils' fantastic competition entries. They will be looking for evidence that pupils have learnt about NHS careers and want to see their creativity shine through.

If your pupil(s)' entry is chosen as a regional winner, they will have the opportunity to present their entries to NHS judges at our virtual Winners' Day, where the overall national winner will be crowned!

This is a breakdown of what the judges will look for:

50%: Understanding of NHS careers

- 👤 Are the pupils aware of what their chosen job(s) do and the key qualities they have?

50%: Creativity

- 🎨 Is the entry creative and inspiring?
- 💡 Anything that demonstrates that they have gone the extra mile with their work.

Online gallery

[Our online gallery](#) shows previous winning entries that can be explored for inspiration. Please note, the competition challenge is different from previous years, so entries here are a guide only!



Prizes and recognition

The prizes are designed to reward the winning pupils for all their hard work. The overall national winner(s) will win vouchers as well as other fantastic prizes. Whether pupils enter individually or as a pair, each of them will receive a prize if their entry is chosen.

- 🏆 Overall national winner(s) will see their entry displayed in public for their local community to see. They'll also receive Amazon vouchers worth £50, a goody bag and a prize for their class!
- 📺 Regional winners will each receive an Amazon voucher worth £25 and a goody bag.
- 📁 All winners will receive certificates and have their entry featured on our online gallery.
- 🏆 One highly commended certificate per entry will be awarded to the top entries per region. A digital 'well done' certificate will be sent to those who weren't chosen as a national or regional winner, or as highly commended.

The Step into the NHS Day

Our online event, **'The Step into the NHS Day'** offers pupils the unique opportunity to meet NHS staff members live and engage in a range of activities that will boost careers learning.

Date: Thursday 12 March 2026

[Register now](#) to join our virtual event.



**Please contact us for
more information**

Visit our website:
**[stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk/
primary-schools](https://stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk/primary-schools)**

Call our helpline advisers:
0345 60 60 655 between 9am
and 5:30pm Monday to Friday

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advice@healthcareers.nhs.uk

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**Competition closes
30 April 2026**



If you need this booklet in an alternative format, such as large print, a coloured background or Braille, please contact us on 0345 60 60 655 or email **advice@healthcareers.nhs.uk**