

# RDS PRIMARY SCIENCE FAIR

## DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

October 4, 2017  
(All Fairs)  
or  
February 7, 2018  
(Belfast only)



**Dublin** 11 - 13 January, 2018

**Limerick** 18 - 20 January, 2018

**Belfast** 6 - 7 June, 2018

#RDSpsf

# What's the RDS Primary Science Fair all about?



"An excellent, well-organised and exciting event to be a part of. I would definitely recommend this event to other colleagues and would love this to become an annual event within my own class teaching and school calendar"

**Teacher participant**  
**RDS Primary Science Fair 2017**

"There is a greater bond between us. We became more comfortable asking questions. We communicate better. We find science more interesting now. Our confidence has improved."

**Class feedback**  
**RDS Primary Science Fair 2017**

# When & Where?

**In 2018 there will be more opportunities for schools to participate in, or to visit, the RDS Primary Science Fair. In addition to the Dublin and Limerick Fairs, we are increasing the number of projects on display in Belfast.**

The RDS Primary Science Fair helps students to think creatively and scientifically about their natural environment, drawing on their innate curiosity of the world around them. Each of the Fairs will showcase a range of primary school STEM-related class projects and will provide opportunities for students to explore other schools' projects and explain their class projects to their peers.

The RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick and Belfast will also feature an exciting educational entertainment programme for children, families and teachers including large-scale science shows and interactive exhibits.

**Successful schools will be invited to exhibit on one of the following dates:**

## **RDS Primary Science Fair Dublin**

Showing alongside the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, RDS, Dublin  
**90 school places**

Thursday, January 11, 2018 (30 projects)

Friday, January 12, 2018 (30 projects)

Saturday, January 13, 2018 (30 projects)

## **RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick**

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick  
**120 places**

Thursday, January 18, 2018 (40 projects)

Friday, January 19, 2018 (40 projects)

Saturday, January 20, 2018 (40 projects)

## **RDS Primary Science Fair Belfast**

Belfast Waterfront  
**80 places**

Wednesday, June 6, 2018 (40 projects)

Thursday, June 7, 2018 (40 projects)

# Call for Entries - Timeline

**There are two open calls for schools who are interested in participating in the Fair. This is to accommodate the primary school curriculum in ROI and NI schools.**

## **September Call for Entries**

- Opens: Wednesday, September 6, 2017
- Deadline: Wednesday, October 4, 2017
- Eligibility : Open to schools interested to participate in either the **Dublin, Limerick or Belfast Fair**

## **January Call for Entries**

- Opens: Wednesday, January 10, 2018
- Deadline: Wednesday, February 7, 2018
- Eligibility: Open to schools interested to participate in the **Belfast Fair**

## **Allocation of Projects**

Schools who submit an application to participate in the Fair will be notified as follows:

**Dublin and Limerick Fairs:** Applicants will be notified by the end of October, 2017.

**Belfast Fair:** Applicants will be notified by the end of February, 2018. This is irrespective of whether the application is made as part of the September or January call for entries to ensure the fairness of consideration for all applicants.

### **Contact us:**

**[primarysciencefair@rds.ie](mailto:primarysciencefair@rds.ie)**

**ROI: +353 1 2407990**

**NI: +44 345 2661897**

**[www.primarysciencefair.com](http://www.primarysciencefair.com)**

# How to Participate in the Fair

**Classes from 4th, 5th, 6th (Republic of Ireland) and Key Stage 2 (Northern Ireland) can apply, via the RDS website, to display a whole-class project at any of the Fairs. Projects should seek to pose and answer a specific STEM-related question closely linked to the primary curriculum.**

## **Class Project Planning Framework**

We strongly recommend that teachers use the RDS Primary Science Fair class project planning framework (next page) in class to lead pupils in thinking about the steps necessary for their project and to ensure a focus on skills development. This Framework aligns with the objectives of the ROI and NI primary curriculum with particular reference to SESE (ROI) and TSPC (NI) and provides a basis for:

- 1 Class Planning** *(to identify the overall approach to the investigation and to plan what to do with the evidence/information gathered)*
- 2 Call for Entries** *(the online form to be completed by schools who are interested in participating in the Fair)*

- 3 Project Allocation** *(stands are allocated to schools based on the information provided in the online form. Unfortunately we are not in a position to offer every school a project stand at the Fair but endeavour to give every school an equal opportunity to participate)*

- 4 Judges' Feedback** *(the Fair is non-competitive but constructive feedback is provided to pupils and their teachers following discussion of the project with a Judge at the Fair. All participating schools will also be presented with a school trophy and pupil certificates of participation).*

## **Visiting the Fair**

The Fairs are also open to visitors as individuals (families, parents etc.) or groups (primary schools, educational/community groups).

Please note tickets must be booked in advance, details are on our website.

# Class Project Planning Framework \*

## 1 What is your class project question?

*This is your project title and it must be in the form of a question or investigation.*

## 2 What do you think might happen or what do you think you might find?

*Suggest some possible answers to the question using prediction or estimation.*

## 3 What will you do to get the evidence/information you need to answer your question?

**This could include:** *Observing; Counting, timing or measuring; Changing something to see what happens; Building, coding, designing or making something to use; Recording.*

## 4 How can you organise your evidence/information so that it makes sense?

**This could include:** *Can you draw a chart?; plot a graph?; recognise patterns; or classify things.*

## 5 What does your evidence/information mean?

**This could include:** *What can you tell from the graph or charts? What might cause any of the patterns that you found? Has ordering or classifying the evidence made it any clearer and if so, why?*

## 6 So, how can you piece it all together to answer the question?

**This could include:** *Did what you expect to happen, happen? Did you find out anything unexpected and can you explain why? If you were to repeat your investigation, would you do anything differently? Can you relate your findings to a real life situation?*

The RDS encourages projects to be child-led and so in answering the above questions "you" = the class!

**\* For the extended version of the Class Project Planning Framework please visit our website.**

# Why the RDS?

The RDS is a philanthropic organisation that works to see Ireland thrive culturally and economically. Each year the RDS realises this mission by investing over €2 million across the areas of science, arts, agriculture and enterprise

The RDS Primary Science Fair is a key project within our science and technology work programme. It is underpinned by the RDS STEM learning project, which aims to support primary school teachers to integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics into their classroom practice.

**To view the RDS Primary Science Fair in action visit our website for a short video.  
[www.primarysciencefair.com](http://www.primarysciencefair.com)**



[primarysciencefair@rds.ie](mailto:primarysciencefair@rds.ie)  
Republic of Ireland: +353 1 2407990  
Northern Ireland: +44 345 2661897

Endorsed by CEA

