

National Choir Competition

Competition Rules 2026

Section 1: Submission of Preliminary Competition Entry

- Children in the junior category must be aged 13 or under and young people in the senior category must be up to the age of 18 on 3 March 2026
- In the preliminary round, each choir should perform two contrasting pieces of their own choice.
- Recordings should be made on phones or equivalent (MP3, DVD, video files-
- Sheet music to accompany the pieces is not required in the preliminary round
- Repertoire: The choirs may pick any repertoire from any genre as long as their two pieces are contrasting in style to show off the full ability of the choir's skills.
- An entry will be disqualified if there is evidence of such enhancements as dynamic processing, use of auto-tuners, tracking and layering of voices, editing and mixing or any other electronic enhancement. To make it equitable for the judges to assess, we ask that studio recordings are not submitted for consideration.
- Recordings must be of the current choir, that if selected would sing in the competition (ie not of the choir singing in the previous summer term when some of the singers would then have left school).
- Entries must be submitted no later than 28th November 2025. Entries after this date will not be accepted.
- Each choir cannot exceed 40 members. There is no minimum.
- The conductor must not sing with the choir.
- Singers who are members of more than one choir may perform as a member of each choir to which they belong. The entry can be any choir, whether school, community, worship, youth or other.
- Choirs may sing along to a pre-recorded accompaniment. However, the accompaniment must be purely instrumental and must not contain any vocals.
- Performances on the recorded submissions will be judged on the following criteria: Intonation, tone quality, diction, ensemble, balance, blend, interpretation of music and text, dynamics, phrasing and communication. The suitability of the chosen songs will also be taken into consideration by the judges.
- 16 choirs will be chosen from the junior and 14 choirs chosen from the senior age category to go forwards to the Grand Final.