



Irena Sendler Young Person Award – nomination guidance

“So long as I shall live and have an iota of energy in my body, I shall declare that only good is supreme; it must be striven for at all costs, and - in the end - it must prevail.” – Irena Sendler.

To commemorate the legacy of WWII Polish hero and humanitarian Irena Sendler, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Newark Town Council have launched the Irena Sendler Young Person Award.

The Award identifies and celebrates the positive contributions that young people are making within their local communities.

Formally launched on Holocaust Memorial Day by Newark Town Mayor Diane Ledger and District Council Chair Councillor Jean Hall we are now inviting nominations from primary and secondary schools across Newark and Sherwood to be submitted for consideration of an Irena Sendler Young Person Award.

Background information to Irena Sendler

In 2021 Newark Town Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council were delighted to be able to provide a home to a statue of Polish wartime humanitarian aid worker Irena Sendler.

Irena is celebrated for her work in smuggling Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto during the war, providing them with false identity documents and finding them shelter with willing Polish families or in orphanages and other care facilities. In doing so she saved countless children from the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust.

The Nazi German occupiers suspected her involvement in this work and in October 1943 she was arrested by the Gestapo but managed to hide the list of the names and locations of the rescued Jewish children, preventing this information from falling into the hands of the Gestapo. Withstanding torture and imprisonment, Irena never revealed anything about her work or the location of the saved children. She was sentenced to death but narrowly escaped on the day of her scheduled execution.

In 1965, she was recognised by the State of Israel as Righteous Among the Nations. She received the Gold Cross of Merit granted to her in 1946 for the saving of the Jewish children and the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest honour, which was awarded late in her life for her wartime humanitarian efforts.

Her statue in Newark now stands as a lasting testament to the incredible courage, bravery and heroism displayed by Irena during some of the most adverse circumstances one could imagine.

You can find out more information about Irena's story on the Yad Vashem website:

<https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/sendler.html>



Irena Sendler Young Person Award

To continue to celebrate and encourage Irena Sendler's legacy of kindness and tolerance Newark and Sherwood District Council and Newark Town Council have launched the Irena

Sendler Young Person Award to recognise the amazing achievements of the district's younger generation.

Four winners will be recognised **annually** as part of the award from a primary school and secondary school in the Newark area and likewise in the Sherwood area. Each winner will receive a certificate and £25 voucher and will be invited to receive their award at the Newark and Sherwood Community Awards 2025.

The nominating schools of the award winners will also receive a £125 donation towards learning resources.

Submission guidance

To nominate an individual for the Irena Sendler Young Person Award please explain in no more than **500 words** how they have demonstrated an act of kindness and selflessness either for a peer or for their wider community. This could be from wanting to make a difference in their community, raising money for a local charity or supporting someone going through a challenging time or an act of bravery.

Please also include the following information:

- Name
- Age
- School
- Parent or guardian contact information

Please note each school can make up to **two** nominations.

Please send all nominations to communitydevelopment@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk with the email subject titled **Irena Sendler Young Person Award nomination**.

The closing date for nominations is **Friday 27th June 2025**.

Terms and conditions

1. Nominations for the Irena Sendler Young Person Award will be open from Saturday 15 February 2025 until Friday 27th June 2025.
2. Nominations can only be made by sending a written email to Newark and Sherwood District Council's Community Development team. Nominations sent in via any other medium/format will not be accepted.
3. Individuals nominated for the award must all reside within the district of Newark and Sherwood in order to be eligible for consideration.



4. If you are nominating an individual under the age of 18, we will require contact details for their parent or legal guardian and signed consent for the individual to be nominated.
5. If the nominated young person has supported another individual or group of people it will be necessary to secure appropriate consents for their details to be shared.
6. Following the closure of the nominating period, all entries will be collated and formatted. Should we require further information from you, we will contact you via the contact details you provided.
7. Newark and Sherwood District Council reserves the right to discount any nomination that does not meet eligibility criteria.
8. All eligible nominations will be presented to the Judging Panel for consideration.
9. The Judging Panel will decide upon winners and its decision is final.
10. Should your nomination be successful in winning a category, you agree to take part in any promotional interviews, photography and filming that may be required for the awards event to take place.
11. The winner of each award category received **two** complementary tickets to the awards event, which will take place in late September 2025 Renaissance at Kelham Hall.
12. Runners up in each category will receive a certificate through the post, along with verbal recognition at the awards event and a listing on the Newark and Sherwood District Council website.
13. Unless the winner notifies us otherwise in writing within a week of being informed that they have won, Newark and Sherwood District Council reserve the right to use and feature the names of the artwork winner for publicity purposes and the winner agrees that they will participate in any reasonable publicity.