



## What Makes A Good Nomination?

If the progress and achievements of a student are considered worthy enough to be nominated for a National Award, we think it's only fair that the nomination itself provide a true sense of that achievement and what it took to get there.

Whilst there is no 'good' or 'bad' way of writing a nomination, and we are proud that the decisions of the Judges are based only on the achievements of the students, the more you can tell us about the background, the journey and the outcome the better.

But time is precious and we understand that writing a comprehensive nomination may take a while. So to help make things a little easier, we've pulled together a checklist that you may want to consider alongside the award category criteria and the Terms and Conditions. You'll also find an example overleaf that illustrates that it's content that matters, not quantity!

If you do have any queries though please feel free to contact us at:  
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### Does the nomination ....

#### .... provide information about the background of the student/s?

We appreciate that there may be sensitive information that cannot be included but having even just a vague sense of the history can help put the achievements into context.

#### .... identify the challenges, barriers and differences that were faced?

What were the challenges that had to be faced - physical? emotional? social? Sometimes, how obstacles are approached, and how we respond to the consequences, is just as important as whether or not they were overcome.

#### .... provide examples that illustrate the progress / achievements?

This could be physical evidence such as samples of work, assessment results, certificates or awards received, letters of thanks or acknowledgement, photographs, and so on. Or it could be examples and descriptions of actions or behaviours that were observed.

#### .... share the current circumstances?

Is the journey complete? Are there plans and ambitions in place to continue that journey? Have others been impacted or affected?

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It's useful to have some indication of the history or starting point of a nomination. It doesn't have to be too detailed but an indication of the background helps to understand the wider context.

What obstacles were faced?  
Over what period of time?  
Were there any setbacks?

The 'how' (how they got to where they are now, how challenges were overcome along the way) is just as important as the outcome.

Even if the journey isn't over yet, the progress so far is worth celebrating.

What might the future hold?

Reason for Nomination:  
(Please attach additional sheets if required.)

We would like to nominate this student for the National Awards because of the extraordinary progress he has made and the perseverance and determination he has demonstrated.

This student joined our school about 11 months ago. Having struggled to settle in several mainstream settings, his behaviour had been described as "disruptive" and "challenging". Assessments had indicated that he was several years below age group standards in both maths and reading.

The first couple of months proved to be tough as he struggled to adapt to the new environment. He made little effort to engage with lessons, was resistant to the attempts of staff to involve him in school community activities and seemed reluctant to make new friends.

However, through his own perseverance and determination this young man has made extraordinary progress in all aspects of school life. He has demonstrated courage in trying new challenges and activities where he has shown real aptitude for leadership roles. He continues to work hard on developing his communication skills, empathy for others and sense of self. In class, he is almost at age-group expectations in all subject areas (please see attached testimonials from subject teachers).

He has developed a strong network of friends, sets a good example to new and younger students, and has established some strong foundations for himself for the future. He is a pleasure to have in the class room, an excellent ambassador for the school and a worthy nominee for the National Awards.