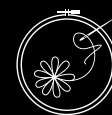




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2026 Schools Fashion  
Design Competition

# Black & White



Fashion &  
Embroidery

## Inspire Your Students to Think Creatively - and Consciously

### Are your students ready to take on a real-world design challenge that blends creativity, sustainability, and red-carpet flair?

This year's **Schools Fashion Design Competition** invites young textile, art, and design students to craft a statement piece for the theme '**Black & White**' — **combining high-fashion elegance with youthful originality**. Their mission: to design a head-turning outfit fit for an event like the **Brit Awards**, using only **repurposed materials** from charity shop finds.

But this is more than just a fashion brief — it's an opportunity to explore the growing issue of **global textile waste** and encourage sustainable thinking in design. Students will be challenged to interpret this "black and white" issue through compelling imagery and inventive reuse, culminating in a unique garment for the catwalk.

#### Why get involved?

- ✓ Encourages environmental awareness through fashion
- ✓ Develops research, design, and practical skills
- ✓ Offers real exposure — finalists will see their work on a live runway!

Help your students turn their passion into purpose — and maybe even launch the career of a future fashion innovator.

**Let them dream big. Let them design bold. The runway awaits.**

## Deadlines

- Final online enrolment: **2 January 2026**
- Mood board delivery: **9 January 2026**

## Prizes

#### OVERALL WINNING SCHOOL:

**A fabulous Janome 230DC sewing machine (usual price £439) for their D&T department.**

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE STUDENT:

A Janome 230DC sewing machine to take home; a Vlieseline goodie bag, worth £75, plus a box of Madeira threads.

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE STUDENT:

A Vlieseline goodie bag, worth £50, plus a box of Madeira threads.

#### 3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE STUDENT:

A Vlieseline goodie bag, worth £25, plus a box of Madeira threads.



## Judging

Judging will take place at the Fashion & Embroidery show on Friday 13 March 2026, at the NEC Birmingham.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

The competition is open to students aged between 13 and 18 only.

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# Design Brief

## Black&White Reimagined

### Challenge:

Let's face it — our planet is drowning in waste, and a surprising contributor is something we all use daily: rags. Old clothes, towels, and linens often end up in landfills, where they rot slowly, releasing harmful chemicals into the earth. It's time to turn this problem inside out.



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### Your Mission:

Design a show-stopping creation that shines a spotlight on the issue of textile waste — with a powerful twist. Using only black and white items from charity shops or reconditioned clothing, your students will craft a fashion-forward piece that could make waves on a red carpet event like the Brit Awards.

**Think bold.**

**Think sustainable.**

**Think unforgettable.**



### Design Criteria:

- Use preloved black and white materials (clothing, linens, accessories) to create a wearable design.
- The finished piece should highlight the environmental impact of textile waste.
- Designs should be visually powerful and creatively communicate the “black and white” theme.

### But wait — there's more!

Students can layer their concept with visual or cultural references to anything “black and white”:

- Classic films
- Songs and lyrics
- Chessboards
- Animal prints (zebras, dalmatians)
- Newspaper clippings
- Optical illusions or bold patterns

**Let imagination lead. This isn't just about fashion — it's about telling a story, starting a conversation, and making sustainability stylish.**

### Final Showcase:

Designs should be runway-ready for a major moment — imagine your piece hitting the Brit Awards stage. Would it make the headlines?



# What to do

Using various media we would like all entrants to produce three A3 mood boards:

## Board 1:

The first board needs to show that the student has explored the growing issue of global textile waste and the sustainable alternatives to disposing of rag waste. Interpret this “black and white” issue through compelling imagery, showcasing creative solutions available today for transforming these materials from mere waste into valuable new resources.

## Board 2:

For board 2, we would like to see three head-turning outfits for any gender, fit for an event like the Brit Awards, using only repurposed materials from charity shop finds.

This board should have notes on fabrics, embellishments, accessories, and show how they have layered their concept with visual or cultural references to anything “black and white”.

This board must show developmental work and have links to the final design.

## Board 3:

For the final board, we would like the student to select one of their designs and create a ‘Final Design’ illustration. This will need to be clear and annotated for the judges, include front and back views, final colour choices, material swatches and a brief description of the design.

If selected as a finalist, this is the garment that you will be asked to make.



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## How to Enter

### Stage 1:

Following the outlined design brief, we want to see your students' sketches and mood boards with fabric ideas and notes on how they arrived at their final design.

### DEADLINES:

Complete the online enrolment and photo consent form for ICHF Events by Friday 2 January 2026.

Post all competitors design mood boards to Brenda Killigrew to arrive by Friday 9 January 2026 at the following address:

**FAO Brenda Killigrew, IDC, 26 Gorsey Close, Astwood Bank, Redditch, Worcestershire, B96 6AG.**

**Email:** [brenda@inkberrowdesigncentre.co.uk](mailto:brenda@inkberrowdesigncentre.co.uk)

The student's name and school must be written on the back of EACH piece of work, plus the teacher's email and telephone number for identification.

**NOTE: Before sending off entries, please ensure that you have photographed or photocopied all work, to guarantee that you have a record of what you have entered for each student.**

### Stage 2:

- Ten finalists will be selected from their mood boards and they will be asked to make up their Final Design.
- The Final takes place at the Fashion & Embroidery show, NEC Birmingham on 13 March 2026. The finalists' garments need to arrive at the show by 10.30am on this day (either in person or sent in advance).
- The judges will look at the make up of each garment and how it relates to the brief and the contestants proposed Final Design.
- All the finalists' garments will be paraded on the lunchtime catwalk, worn either by the students themselves, or if they prefer by a model.
- The students will be notified by Tuesday 13 January, which will give them nine weeks to construct their design piece.

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## Rules & Regulations

- The entry must be entirely the student's own work.
- All entries must be enrolled online by Friday 2 January 2026 and mood boards received by Friday 9 January 2026.
- Judging will take place Friday 13 March at the Fashion & Embroidery show. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The winners will be announced and prizes presented on the Friday at the end of the competition. If the winners are not in attendance, the prizes will be dispatched to them, as soon as possible after the show.
- Entrants must be prepared to have their sketches and mood boards displayed at the Fashion & Embroidery show at the NEC Birmingham for the entire length of the show.
- If you wish to have your sketches and mood boards returned to you after the show, please supply a suitable SAE with your full school address, telephone number and email.
- While reasonable care will be taken with the security of all exhibits, the Organisers' and IDC will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits, equipment or personal effects.
- By entering competition and allowing work to be shown at the Fashion & Embroidery show, PLEASE BE AWARE that photographs or copies may be taken by any person or visitor, and realise that your designs/work may be reproduced, but you will not hold ICHF Events or its employees' liable in any way should this occur.
- Entrants must also be prepared to have their work photographed and featured in ICHF Events, and the sponsors, literature and websites. **A Photo Consent form must be completed, signed and duly returned with entry.**

## ENTRY FORM AND PHOTO CONSENT FORM

Please complete one Online Entry Form for each entrant. **The photo consent form MUST BE COMPLETED for each entrant and returned to ICHF Events.**