

Children's Laureate Wales 2019-2021

Call-out for Expressions of Interest

Literature Wales is inviting expressions of interest for the newly created post of Children's Laureate Wales 2019-2021.

Please send your expressions of interest to Literature Wales, by:
12.00 noon on Thursday 11 July 2019

About the role

The Children's Laureate Wales is a new national ambassadorial post, delivered by Literature Wales, which aims to engage and inspire the children of Wales through literature. The Children's Laureate Wales is a two-year post for a Wales-based writer and will focus on increasing children's accessibility to, and conveying the joy of, creative writing and reading.

The Children's Laureate Wales is a scheme announced in May 2019 as part Literature Wales' new Strategic Plan for 2019-22. It replaces the role of Young People's Laureate for Wales, which ran from 2011-2018, and will work alongside the Welsh-language scheme Bardd Plant Cymru, primarily working with children between the ages of 5-13.

The Children's Laureate Wales is an English-language scheme which will promote creativity, communication skills and self-expression through a love of literature. Literature Wales will work with the Children's Laureate Wales upon appointment in order to plan a precise programme of activity for the two years, but there will be an emphasis on Literature Wales' priorities. These include representation & equality and health & well-being, with the aim of improving the lives of the future generations of Wales.

The role will involve developing and delivering creative activities for young people across Wales and working with groups of young people from different backgrounds. The Children's Laureate Wales will also act as an ambassador and positive role model for children, championing their rights and interests. Literature Wales expects the role to attract a high profile in Wales and beyond and will require the Laureate to be available for interviews and comment in the media from time to time, with the aim of increasing the visibility of children's literature in Wales.

The Literature Wales Strategic Plan (2019-22) is available [here](#). We recommend reading this in advance of sending your expression of interest and would like to see proposals that present creative and engaging ways of delivering the aims set out here through the Children's Laureate Wales scheme.

We welcome expressions of interest from writers across all literary forms, from poetry to prose, graphic novels and spoken word. We would consider appointing an early career writer to this role and may, with the right person, consider potential over experience. In this case, the role provides a platform to develop their skills in delivering creative activity in participatory settings during their term as Laureate, as well as enhancing their artistic repertoire and professional reputation.

Children's Laureate Wales will:

- engage and inspire the children of Wales (primarily ages 5-13) through literature;
- encourage self-expression and develop literacy and communication skills amongst children;
- be an ambassador and positive role model for children, championing their rights and interests;
- raise the visibility of children's literature in Wales, nationally and internationally;
- be a strong advocate for creative reading, writing and speaking for pleasure;
- support the development of the next generation of young writers;
- particularly engage Literature Wales' Target Client Characteristics, as specified in our Strategic Plan 2019-22 - children from BAME backgrounds, children from low income backgrounds, children with disabilities or illnesses (physical or mental);
- scout, develop, support and advocate for a cohort of talented young writers at the start of their literary careers.

About Literature Wales

Literature Wales is the national company for the development of literature. Our vision is a Wales where literature empowers, improves and brightens lives.

We are a registered charity, and work to inspire communities, develop writers and celebrate the literary culture of Wales. Literature Wales works in Welsh, English and bilingually across Wales. We have offices in Llanystumdwy and Cardiff. Our patron is Sir Philip Pullman.

We facilitate, fund and directly deliver a literary programme across Wales. All our activities are structured into three Activity Pillars. Concentrating on these three areas will help us to ensure that all of our work is clearly linked to our mission, and enable us to use our resources most effectively:

Participation – inspiring some of our most marginalised individuals and communities through active participation in literature.

Writer Development – developing the creative and professional potential of early career writers.

Wales' Literary Culture – celebrating our contemporary writers and the literary heritage of Wales.

All of the pillars are inter-linked, and much of our work will flow from one to another. Projects will not be developed in isolation, but will complement and enhance each other, with clear progression and development during the three years.

Our Priorities

Based on our understanding of the power of literature to improve and transform lives, and the need to focus our activities where they will have greatest impact, we have identified three Tactical Priorities which will cross-cut all Activity Pillars. They are not types of activity but thematic priorities which will feature in everything we deliver, and in our partnership and facilitation work:

Representation & Equality – by ensuring representative inclusion throughout our activity and internal structures, we will provide platforms for, and encourage, under-represented literary voices; creating a national literary culture which represents contemporary Wales.

Health & Well-being – by supporting and advocating the various ways literature can contribute positively to the nation's health and well-being, we will improve the lives of people in Wales.

Children & Young People – by increasing accessibility to, and conveying the joy of creative writing and reading, we will make a significant contribution to the well-being of the future generations of Wales.

Eligibility & Terms

The Children's Laureate Wales should:

- be willing and able to commit to at least 24 working days per year to work as Children's Laureate Wales
- be able to work with children aged 5-13
- have some track record in their literary field
- be a confident and dynamic public speaker

In addition to the core work programme, extra commissions, residencies and opportunities may be presented to the post-holder during the term, by Literature Wales and partner organisations. Any such work would be contracted separately.

The work programme will be developed once the appointment has been made, according to the new Laureate's ideas and specialisms. We are keen to create a bespoke offer to suit both the new Laureate and Literature Wales' strategic priorities.

The Children's Laureate Wales will receive a fee of £250 per day of activity plus expenses.

How to submit your Expression of Interest

To express your interest in this role, please provide the following:

1. A letter (maximum two pages) OR video explaining why you would like to be considered for the role, and what you would like to focus on or achieve during your 2 years in post;
2. Your writer's CV, identifying relevant experiences and/or potential; and
3. An Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form ([available here](#)).

Videos should be no longer than 5 minutes, provided as a Dropbox or WeTransfer link. If sending your expression of interest in video form, please also send an email detailing your writer's CV, Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form, and confirming your contact details.

Please send your expressions of interest, or any questions to post@literaturewales.org, with Children's Laureate Wales and your name in the subject line, or call 029 2047 2266.

Expressions of Interest must be sent to Literature Wales by: 12.00 noon on Thursday 11 July 2019

What happens next?

We may wish to arrange informal conversations with a shortlist to discuss the applications in more detail. In this instance, they will take place on 25 July.

The role will be offered subject to a satisfactory DBS check (which Literature Wales will arrange and fund).

We expect the Children's Laureate Wales to take up the post from September 2019.

Literature Wales is a registered charity and works with the support of the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government. Please see www.literaturewales.org for further information.