

# CHILDREN'S LAUREATE WALES.

## Literature Wales is looking for a Children's Laureate Wales 2021-2023 to delight and inspire the children of Wales

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Following the huge success of renowned novelist Eloise Williams' term as the inaugural Children's Laureate Wales in 2019-2021, Literature Wales is pleased to announce that this time we are looking for a poet from Wales to take up the challenge of inspiring our nation's young people.

**Are you a poet or spoken word artist who loves working with children? Do you believe in the power of literature to inspire, empower, improve, and brighten lives - especially the lives of young people? Do you dream of celebrating and representing Wales' literary culture on a national and international stage? Then we want to hear from you!**

Literature Wales is looking for the next **Children's Laureate Wales** and is inviting applications from talented, passionate, and visionary poets and spoken word artists for this role. We are open to applications from people from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and who are at any stage of their career as writers and artists. We are looking for people who share our values of equality and representation, and who will advocate for children's fundamental rights to be creative, to express themselves and, of course, to have fun with words.

## Key facts about the role

- We are looking for a Children's Laureate Wales to start in the autumn of 2021. The closing dates for applications is Monday 19 July 2021.
- The role is for two years, until the autumn of 2023.
- The fee for the work is £8,000 per year, plus expenses, and the activity plan will equate to approximately 20 days of activity per year.
- Please note: the nature and format of the working days will be varied. On some days you will be delivering a workshop in a school, on other days you could be working from home writing on a commissioned poem. Discover more in the Day in the Life of the Children's Laureate Wales section below.
- The work involves running workshops for children and young people, writing commissioned poems, and various other activities, both at schools and in other settings (such as festivals and youth clubs).
- The Laureate will be considered as an advocate and champion for children and children's literature, as well as issues which are important to our future generations, including mental health, education, and climate emergency. There will likely be opportunities for further commissions from external partners, and invitations to head up national campaigns.
- The Children's Laureate Wales will engage with children across Wales and inspire them to be creative and to express themselves through poetry.
- The Children's Laureate Wales is a role awarded every two-years to a Wales-based writer.
- Children's Laureate Wales is an English-language project which works alongside its Welsh-language sister project, Bardd Plant Cymru.
- Pembrokeshire-based children's author **Eloise Williams** was named the inaugural Children's Laureate Wales for 2019-2021 and will be in the role until the end of the summer 2021.

## Why a Poet?

Literature Wales sees literature as a diverse and varied artform, and our aim is to celebrate Wales' literary culture in all its forms. Following the appointment of a novelist as the inaugural Children's Laureate Wales, we would like poetry to be the focus for the 2021-2023 term. We believe that poetry for children is extremely important and we want to promote and help raise the profile of poets who want to work in this area. For future laureates, we may look at other genres to spotlight.

## How the project works

Literature Wales will work closely with the Children's Laureate Wales to devise and deliver a programme of activities for the two years. We are here to support and facilitate the role, and we very much want the selected laureate to make this their own project and have their own vision for it. However, in line with our own strategy, we expect the programme to focus on representation and equality, as well as health and well-being. The overall aim of our work at Literature Wales is to use the power of literature to improve lives.

The role will involve working with children across Wales and with groups of children from a wide variety of backgrounds. The Children's Laureate Wales will also act as an ambassador and positive role model for children, championing their rights and interests. The laureate will be expected to take part in public events and give media interviews from time to time (guidance will be provided). The Children's Laureate Wales' official programme of work will not involve

regular school visits but will deliver wider activity; however, Literature Wales can advise the post-holder on how to arrange their own school visits directly. We expect many requests from schools will be received, which offers an opportunity for the poet to obtain further freelance work as a result of the role.

Literature Wales' Strategic Plan (2019-22) is available [here](#). We recommend reading this in advance of sending your application. We are looking for exciting and innovative proposals that present creative and engaging ways of delivering the aims set out here through the Children's Laureate Wales project.

The Children's Laureate Wales must be an effective communicator with excellent administrative and organisational skills to ensure the smooth running and success of the project. The post-holder will be expected to work closely with the Literature Wales project coordinator and communications team, as well as other partners on a regular basis.

As Children's Laureate Wales, your day could include the following:

- Liaising with a Literature Wales staff member on a new campaign or project that you wish to run;
- Attending planning meetings for high profile projects or activity;
- Writing a commissioned poem on a specific theme or subject;
- Planning and delivering a workshop with a school or a group of young people;
- Judging a writing competition;
- Speaking to the media in your role as Children's Laureate Wales;
- Taking part in an International Children's Laureates digital event; or
- Writing and recording an annual speech or lecture on an issue or campaign that you're passionate about.

You will have plenty of opportunity to curate your two years in the role and engage with a variety of opportunities to benefit the children of Wales. You will be paired with a member of staff from the Literature Wales team who will work closely with you to support your schedule, plans and activity and ensure the role is flexible to fit around any responsibilities (e.g. employment and/or caring) that you may have.

We actively welcome applications from writers at all stages of their literary careers. Those who are just starting out will be given a range of opportunities to develop their profile and will be able to thrive in this role. The role provides a platform to develop skills in delivering creative activity in participatory settings, as well as enhancing artistic and professional reputation.

Our Tactical Priorities will be at the forefront of our work in the next few years, as and such we strongly encourage applications from people who are under-represented in the literature sector, and from those who experience discrimination due to race, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, disability or age. We operate an anti-racist culture and are developing our Safeguarding and HR policies to include best practice processes when working with those who have suffered the trauma of discrimination and on addressing micro-aggressions in the workplace. We are dedicated to meeting access requirements; just let us know what you need.

The Children's Laureate Wales will:

- engage with children across Wales and inspire them to be creative and to express themselves through poetry;
- encourage children to have fun with poetry;

- promote every child's right to have their stories and voices heard;
- be an ambassador and positive role model for children, championing their rights and interests;
- help develop children's literacy and communication skills through creativity;
- support the development of the next generation of young writers;
- raise the visibility of children's poetry in Wales, nationally and internationally; and
- particularly engage Literature Wales' Target Client Characteristics, as specified in our Strategic Plan 2019-22 - children from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, children from low-income backgrounds, and children with disabilities or illnesses (physical or mental).

Below is a basic example of how a Children's Laureate Wales core work programme might look for one year:

Activity	Number of days
Projects (focused on the Laureate's priorities. Developed by the Children's Laureate Wales and Literature Wales)	16
Commissioned poems (4 poems)	2
Annual lecture or publication	1
High-profile international event	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20</b>

## 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 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 covered by the Strategic Plan.

Literature Wales' Mid-Term Report for 2019-2022 can be found [here](#).

## 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 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 will:

- be willing and able to commit to at least 20 working days per year to work as Children's Laureate Wales; If you have any concerns about your availability (e.g. employment and/or caring responsibilities) and the role, please get in touch;
- be able to work with children and young people up to the age of 18;
- have some track record as a poet and/or spoken word artist; and
- 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 Children's Laureate Wales' ideas and specialisms. We are keen to create a bespoke offer to suit both the new Children's Laureate Wales and Literature Wales' strategic priorities.

The Children's Laureate Wales will receive a fee of £8,000, plus expenses, per year. This fee includes time that can reasonably be expected for project planning and administration.

## How to submit your application

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

1. A letter (maximum two pages) **OR** video up to 5 minutes in length explaining:
  - What you would like to focus on or achieve during your 2 years in post. You might want to think about one main theme that you would want to engage children with, were you to become then next Laureate, for example Black Lives Matter, children's mental health, or the climate emergency.
  - Examples of the type of projects you would like to develop. There will be an opportunity to discuss these in more depth in an interview.
  - Why you want the role.
  - Why you are a suitable candidate for the role.
  - What impact the role would have on your career.
2. Three English-language poems you have written for children and/or young people (written or video).
3. Your writer's CV, identifying relevant experiences and/or potential.
4. 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 application 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 applications, or any questions about the role, to [post@literaturewales.org](mailto:post@literaturewales.org), with Children's Laureate Wales and your name in the subject line.

**Applications must be sent to Literature Wales by: 5.00 pm, Monday 19 July 2021**

## What happens next?

We will interview a shortlist to discuss applications in more detail. Interviews will be an opportunity for the applicants to present a more detailed plan for their two years in post. Interviews will take place virtually via Zoom during the week commencing 26 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 in the autumn of 2021.

## Our recruitment policy

Literature Wales benefitted from being a part of the [Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries](#), which support arts organisations to expand their approach to diverse recruitment and talent development. We are committed to welcoming candidates from a wide range of backgrounds, which includes assessing applications partly based on potential strengths. If you would like to apply for this role but are uncertain whether you have sufficient experience, please contact us for an informal chat.

*Literature Wales is a registered charity that works with the support of the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government.*