

CHILDREN'S LAUREATE WALES.

2023-2025
Recruitment Pack



Literature Wales is
looking for the new
**Children's Laureate
Wales 2023-2025**
To inspire and ignite
the creativity of
Wales' children

Are you a poet or a writer who loves to work with children?

Do you believe in the power of literature to inspire, improve and brighten lives – especially the lives of young people?

Are you passionate about celebrating and representing the rights and aspirations of Wales' youth – and willing to take that passion to national platforms?

Then we want to hear from you.

Important dates:

Deadline to apply:

12.00 midday, Thursday 16 March 2023

Interview/pilot workshops:

week beginning 17 April 2023

Announcement Event at Hay Festival:

1.00 pm, Friday 2 June 2023



Introduction

Children's Laureate Wales is a national role aimed at igniting creativity and inspiring the children of Wales through literature. The Children's Laureate uses literature to encourage children to be creative and to foster a love of writing and reading. The project workshops aim to develop the confidence and creative communications skills of participating children, and empower future generations to write about the things that are important to them.

The Children's Laureate Wales project is run by Literature Wales. The project was founded in 2019 and has so far featured two talented writers in the role. We select a new writer for the role every two years, and we are now looking for the next writer to take on the mantle for 2023-25.

We're inviting applications from passionate individuals with a clear vision for the role. We welcome applications from individuals from a range of diverse backgrounds and lived experiences, and we'll consider both experienced and more emerging writers for the role.

We are looking for writers who share our values of equality and representation, who will be a strong ambassador for children's rights to be creative, to express their views, to get their voices heard and of course to have fun with words.



Aims of the Children's Laureate Wales Project

The Laureate will work with children across Wales, and with groups from a wide variety of different backgrounds. The Laureate will also act as an ambassador for children, promoting their rights, their interests and their aspirations.

We're looking for applications which bring creative and pioneering ideas on how to achieve the aims of the Children's Laureate Wales project. We're also looking for applications that demonstrate how your vision for the role coincides with Literature Wales' priorities.

We recommend that you read [Literature Wales' Strategic Plan \(2022-25\)](#) before writing your application.

Details of the Role



The next Children's Laureate Wales will start in their role in the summer of 2023.

The new Laureate will be announced at the Hay Festival in a prestigious event on 2 June, in an event featuring the outgoing Laureate, Connor Allen.



The role will last two years, until summer 2025.



The fee for the work is £10,000 per year plus additional expenses.

The core work plan will correspond to approximately 25 days of activity per year.



The nature of the 25 days will vary. At times, you'll be running workshops as part of a national project in schools or communities. Other times, you will be writing on a poetry or a short fiction commission to celebrate a notable national event, or visiting an arts festival.

You'll travel all over Wales during the two years to achieve the aims of this lively and busy role.



Children's Laureate Wales is mainly an English-language project, which often works closely with its sister Welsh-language project, [Bardd Plant Cymru](#).

The new Bardd Plant Cymru will also follow the same recruitment timetable, and start their two year role in the summer.



The current Children's Laureate Wales is Connor Allen. There will be an opportunity to shadow and work closely with Connor during the summer of 2023.

Further information about past Children's Laureate Wales projects can be found on the [Literature Wales website](#).



How does the project work?

At the beginning of the project, Literature Wales will work closely with the new Children's Laureate to help them put their own stamp on the role. Looking at the new Laureate's interests, expertise and vision, side by side with the role's aims and Literature Wales' priorities, a detailed Work Plan will be developed for the first year's 25 core days. As part of the Work Plan, we're eager to develop one large project during the year which will aim to have a longstanding impact on a specific group of children in Wales. We'll work closely with the Laureate to capture and communicate the impact of the role during the two years.

The Laureate's priority will be to achieve the Work Plan. But this is a popular and high-profile role, so beyond the core 25 days listed in the contract, we expect that many requests and invitations will arrive for the Laureate from schools and organisations. These might include taking part in national campaigns and various projects, and it's likely that the media will want to speak to you often on issues relating to future generations. Your Literature Wales project coordinator will be available to discuss your appetite to take on these further commissions, and to discuss the possibilities and practicalities. Please note that any work beyond the core 25 days will be agreed upon, and contracted, separately by the Laureate on a freelance basis.

As the Children's Laureate Wales, some of your responsibilities will include the following:

Taking part in meetings with Literature Wales staff to organise campaigns or to discuss the progress of projects.

Writing poetry commissions on a variety of themes or issues.

Travelling across Wales to run creative writing workshops with groups of children or young people.

Organising and curating a performance with a group of children for an event at a festival.

Detailed organisational work, including devising appealing workshops with tangible outcomes and evaluating projects.

Judging writing competitions.

Speaking with the press and media about your role as the Laureate, and/or your views on specific public issues or events.

Taking part in high profile events, for example at Hay Festival or at the Senedd.

Writing an article or a blog on your work or on a campaign about which you are passionate.



You will receive support and guidance from the project coordinator at Literature Wales throughout your time in the role.

The coordinator will support your timetable and day-to-day responsibilities as the Laureate, and will help you to schedule, organise and evaluate the projects in the Work Plan.



The Children's Laureate Wales will:

Be an ambassador for children, promoting the rights and interests of future generations, including mental health, representation, education and the climate emergency.

Be an ambassador for Literature Wales and our priorities, in particular for our belief that literature empowers, improves and brightens lives.

Connect with children across Wales to inspire them to be creative and to give them the tools to express themselves through literature.

Encourage children to have fun with words and literature.

Promote every child's right to tell their story and to voice their opinion.

Help develop children's self-confidence, literacy and communication skills through creativity.

Respect, celebrate and promote the Welsh language.

Support the development of the next generation of young poets and writers.

Raise awareness of literature among the children of Wales.

Connect in particular with groups of children who are under-represented and who face barriers to taking part in creative writing and literary activity.

The Children's Laureate Wales 2023-2025 will:



Be available for at least 25 days of work per year, for two years, between summer 2023 and summer 2025, to undertake Children's Laureate duties.



Be confident and experienced in working with children and young people aged 4-18.



Have experience of running creative workshops for children and young people.



Have the ability to write suitable and appealing work for children and young people.



Be a confident public speaker, and an inspiring communicator when dealing with both children and young people, and other relevant stakeholders.



Have excellent administration skills to ensure that the project runs efficiently and successfully.



Live in Wales.

We welcome applications from experienced writers and facilitators and also from more emerging writers, but we'll be looking in particular for experience in running workshops for children and young people. The shortlisted applicants will receive the opportunity to run a virtual workshop for a group of children as part of the interview process, and the children and the interview panel will assess the workshop as part of the application process.

We're eager to encourage applications from individuals without fair representation in the creative sector, and from applicants who have faced barriers and discrimination due to ethnic background, disability or experience of a low-income background. For further information, read our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan](#). If you want to apply for this role, but feel uncertain whether you have the correct and/or enough experience, please contact Leusa Llewelyn for an informal chat: leusa@literaturewales.org

The successful appointment will be subject to a satisfactory advanced DBS check before starting on the role.

How to apply?

To apply for this role, please send us the following:

1 Application letter (two pages maximum) OR a 5-minute video outlining:

- What you'd like to focus on or achieve during your two years in the role. Perhaps you'd like to select one main theme to sit at the core, for example mental health, representation or the climate and ecology crisis.
- Examples of the kind of large projects you would like to develop. There will be opportunity to discuss these projects further and in more detail during the interview.
- Why you want to undertake the role
- Why you are a suitable candidate for the role. You can refer here to examples of previous experiences and work.

2 Creative Work

Three poems, or a piece of fiction (no more than 2,000 words) for children and/or young people.

3 Diversity and Equality Questionnaire

Please fill out an anonymous Diversity and Equality Questionnaire, [available here](#).

Send your letter or video and creative work to post@literaturewales.org with the subject title Children's Laureate Wales and your name.

If you have any questions before applying, or if you're eager to organise an informal chat with a member of the Literature Wales team, you are welcome to email Leusa Llewelyn: leusa@literaturewales.org or call one of Literature Wales' offices:

01766 522 811 (Tŷ Newydd) or 029 2047 2266 (Cardiff).

Please send your application to Literature Wales by
12.00 midday, Thursday 16 March 2023.



What will happen next?

The panel will select a shortlist, and Literature Wales will invite those applicants:

- To an interview on Zoom to discuss their application further, and
- To run a pilot workshop, lasting 30 minutes, for a group of KS2 pupils on Zoom. More details will be provided.

The interview and workshop will take place during the week beginning 17 April 2023. The interview panel will include former Children's Laureate Wales, Eloise Williams, writer, teacher and researcher, Darren Chetty, and two staff members from Literature Wales.

The role will be offered to the successful candidate pending an advance DBS check.

The Laureate will start their role during summer 2023, with an opportunity to shadow Connor Allen, the current Laureate, until the autumn when he steps down.



Literature Wales is a registered charity working with the support of the Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Government. For further information, visit www.literaturewales.org