

RAISING VOICES

Raising Voices Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Raising Voices Fellowship?

The Raising Voices Fellowship aims to develop and support aspiring artists who make work for children and young adults and whose voices have been underrepresented in literature.

Our aims are:

- to break down barriers to publication, progression and inclusion
- to increase diversity and representation in the Irish literature sector

The Raising Voices Fellowship will commence in March 2026 and run until November 2026. At least four writers and/or illustrators (Fellows) will be selected for a programme of creative and practical supports. This will include:

- Mentorship with an experienced writer or illustrator
- A detailed critique from an editor/art director suited to the Fellow's practice
- A week-long residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig
- A showcase event as part of Dublin Book Festival to mark the end point of the project.
- Access to a bespoke speaker series, bursary information clinic with the Arts Council, and various events and courses
- Professional photography providing Fellows with head shots for publicity purposes as they continue their publishing journeys
- Opportunities to connect and network with the community at Children's Books Ireland's artist coffee mornings and other social events
- Ongoing connections with the partner organisations
- Tools, information and guidance needed to finalise a manuscript or dummy, prepare work for submission, research the market, and apply for bursaries

The programme is designed to give Fellows a robust understanding of key stakeholders in the sector as well as connecting them to a welcoming community of writers, illustrators, publishers and booksellers. It will give Fellows all the tools, support and information they need to help them finalise a manuscript or dummy, prepare work for submission to publishers and agents, research the market, make professional connections, apply for bursaries etc.

We are conscious that Fellows may face financial barriers. The Fellowships are fully funded and include a stipend for Fellows for the residential week .

Who is running the Raising Voices Fellowship?

The Fellowships are run by a group of literature organisations including Children's Books Ireland, Illustrators Ireland, Publishing Ireland, the Dublin Book Festival, West Cork Literary Festival and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig. Children's Books Ireland is the lead organisation and will be the main point of contact.

Am I eligible for the Raising Voices Fellowship?

The Raising Voices Fellowship is for writers and illustrators who:

- make work for children and young people including fiction, non-fiction (including creative non-fiction) and poetry, in English or Irish
- have a complete manuscript or picturebook/illustrated book outline
- come from backgrounds or communities that are marginalised and/or underrepresented in children's and young adult literature
- have not yet been published or secured a contract with a publisher or agent
- live permanently in Ireland or Northern Ireland

We are happy to answer questions in relation to eligibility. The Fellowships are designed to be as inclusive as possible, so rather than list strict and exhaustive criteria, we are asking writers and illustrators who apply to self-identify as 'underrepresented'. We are aware that the Equal Status Acts give legal protection against discrimination on various grounds, including race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, religion, age, disability and membership of the Traveller Community. We also welcome applications from people who are underrepresented due to ethnicity, socio-economic background, neurodiversity and other grounds.

Is there a cost involved?

No, the Fellowships are fully funded. All mentoring and other support received will be free of charge to fellows. A stipend for the residential week will also be provided.

I write in a language other than English/Irish; can I apply for the Raising Voices Fellowship with this work?

Unfortunately not; we can only accept applications from artists working in English and as Gaeilge.

Children's Books Ireland is committed to protecting and upholding the creativity of all children's and young people's artists and their work. Please note, the use of AI in any capacity

in an application or in an applicant's creative work (writing and illustration) is strictly prohibited.

Where do I apply for the Raising Voices Fellowship?

Please [click here for the application form](#). Applications will be accepted until Thursday 19th February 2026 **at 3pm**.

Fellows will be selected by representatives from the five partner organisations and three external readers (published artists or industry experts who come from underrepresented communities). Successful applicants will be contacted in March 2026.

If you have any additional questions please email Aoife Murray, Programme & Events Manager at Children's Books Ireland, aoife@childrensbooksireland.ie