

Chiswick Book Festival Young Poets Competition Rules 2026

Now in its 16th year, the 2026 Chiswick Book Festival Young Poets Competition encourages young people to enjoy writing their own poetry. We welcome original poems on any theme, up to 25 lines long.

For enquiries: children@chiswickbookfestival.net

The suggested theme for 2026 is "Space", though this is optional. Teachers may also submit poems written in class on other themes. If more than one poem has the same title, please distinguish them clearly (for example: "Space 1", "Space 2", etc.).

1. All entries must be received by **Thursday 4 June 2026**.
2. One poem per child.
3. Entrants must be in Years 3–7 on the closing date.
4. Poems must:
 - be no longer than **25 lines**
 - be the entrant's own original work, with no parental, teacher or computer-generated/AI assistance
 - be written on one side of A4 paper only, in portrait orientation
 - be typed or handwritten in black ink
 - have a unique title
 - have been written during the current school year
 - not have been previously published, broadcast or won another competition (except a school magazine)
 - be in English
 - be submitted by UK entrants only
5. Judging is anonymous. Do not write names on the front of poems.
 - For postal entries, names should appear on the back of the original poem only.
 - For email entries, names should appear on the entry form only.
6. Parents, carers or teachers must complete the appropriate entry form (individual or school), confirming:
 - that the poem is the child's own original work, completed without additional help, including computer-generated or AI assistance
 - whether the entrant has a specific educational need (if relevant)
 - maximum of 30 entries per school
7. Entries may be submitted by post or email. Email submissions must come from:
 - a parent/carer email address (individual entries), or
 - a school email address (school entries)
8. Poems will not be returned

Email entries to: poetry@chiswickbookfestival.net (Subject line: "CBF Poetry Competition")

Postal entries to: CBF Poetry Competition, c/o The Parish Office, St Michael and All Angels Church, Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX

- To ensure fair judging for all entrants, poems that do not follow the competition rules may not be accepted.

Final Checklist Before Submitting

Before sending your entry, please check that:

- the poem is original, written this school year and no longer than 25 lines on 1 sheet of A4 portrait
- the poem has a title, and the child's name does **not** appear on the front
- the correct entry form is completed
- email entries are sent from a parent/carer or school email address
- postal entries include original poems with names on the back,

Copyright remains with the author. By entering, winners grant Chiswick Book Festival permission to publish or use their poems for promotional purposes, including on the festival website and social media. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

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