

2026

PORTSMOUTH MULTILINGUAL WRITING COMPETITION

THOUGHTS OF FAMILY,
THOUGHTS OF HOME



CELEBRATING SHARING,
BELONGING &
THE LANGUAGES
OF OUR CITY



OVERVIEW

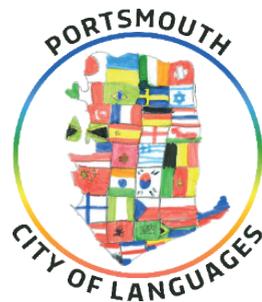
As part of Portsmouth's City of Languages initiative, HSDC is launching the Portsmouth Multilingual Writing Competition 2026 for young people.

The competition celebrates the rich linguistic and cultural diversity found across Portsmouth schools. Young people are invited to create an original poem or short story in any language other than English, accompanied by an English translation, responding to the theme: **Sharing and Belonging**



LINKED TO PORTSMOUTH'S CITY OF LANGUAGES MISSION, THIS COMPETITION:

- Celebrates the city's multilingual heritage
- Recognises the identity, pride, and cultural knowledge of pupils
- Encourages creative writing across languages
- Builds belonging and connection across Portsmouth communities



IT MEETS TWO PORTSMOUTH100 PRIORITIES:

- Our Community and Culture: The multilingual writing competition celebrates Portsmouth's cultural diversity
- Honouring the Local Community: The competition honours our diverse community in Portsmouth.





All entries will be published in an anthology, shared with all participating schools and given to our prize winners.

All Portsmouth Primary and Secondary schools. Launch during Celebrating Languages Week, 16th March.

Open to all young people in Portsmouth, who are multilingual or are learning another language at home or in school.

Separate competitions and prizes for Primary and Secondary schools.

Entries can be written in any home, community, or heritage language (excluding English).

PUPILS MAY SUBMIT:



- A poem (any form)
- A short story (maximum recommended length: 250 words in the original language - but can be far shorter)

EACH ENTRY MUST INCLUDE:

- Original text written in a language other than English.
- English translation (can be supported by a teacher, family member, or bilingual assistant).
- Title in both languages (optional but encouraged).
- Author name, school, and year group.

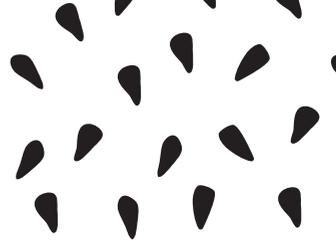
WORK WILL BE JUDGED ON:

- Creativity and imagination
- Effective expression of the theme
- Quality of writing (in either/both languages)
- Cultural richness and authenticity

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

- Please submit entries by **Friday 17th April**
- Please submit scanned copies of entries with the name of the pupil, school and teacher to pete.budd@hsvc.ac.uk

PRIZES



HSDC proudly sponsors the following prize book tokens:

PRIMARY COMPETITION

- 1st Prize - **£50**
- 2nd Prizes x2 - **£25**
- 3rd Prizes x3 - **£15**
- Highly commended

SECONDARY COMPETITION

- 1st Prize - **£50**
- 2nd Prizes x2 - **£25**
- 3rd Prizes x3 - **£15**
- Highly commended

All winning entries will be featured in a book, collated by HSDC.



KEY DATES



- Information to schools: February 2026
- Competition launched - w/c 16th March
- Submission deadline: Friday 17th April?
- Judging panel meets: Early Summer Term 2026
- Award celebration & anthology release: Late Summer Term 2026