

WORDS WITHOUT WALLS

School Chapter Program

Local independence. Global connection.

Young people shouldn't have to leave their mother tongues, and the cultures, memories and communities carried within them, behind in order to have their stories heard.

What is a School Chapter?

A Words Without Walls School Chapter is an **independent, student-led chapter shaped around its own school and local community**, while remaining connected to the wider Words Without Walls international network.

There is no one-size-fits-all chapter model. Each chapter can change as student leadership changes and can choose the activities that make sense for its languages, interests and existing school programs. A chapter might run an internal school writing competition, organise workshops or cultural storytelling projects, publish a local showcase, or simply focus on helping students submit to Words Without Walls' international competition and publication opportunities.

What stays shared: chapters receive access to Words Without Walls resources, chapter materials, international opportunities and our student translation network. There is no cost to establish or run a chapter.

Local chapter, global network

Run your own initiatives Host internal competitions, workshops, prompts, showcases or projects designed for your school.	Enter global opportunities Students can submit directly to Words Without Walls competitions, magazine calls and anthology opportunities.
Write in any language Build activities around the languages and communities that matter locally.	Use our shared resources Access chapter guidance, templates, media assets and our international translation network.

The Global Anthology

Our international anthology will include a dedicated **Best of the Chapters** section showcasing outstanding work emerging from school chapters around the world. Chapters may nominate exceptional student writing for consideration, while students can also enter Words Without Walls' wider competitions and submission calls directly.

What could your chapter look like?

- **Internal school competition:** create a theme, invite entries and celebrate local winners.
- **Mother Tongue Writing Week:** display original-language writing alongside translations.
- **Stories From Home:** collect work inspired by family, memory, place, tradition or identity.
- **Multilingual workshops:** explore how voice and meaning travel across languages.
- **International collaboration:** exchange prompts or projects with chapters elsewhere.

HOW IT WORKS

Independent enough to feel local. Connected enough to reach globally.

Faculty sponsor & student leadership

Each chapter should have a designated **faculty sponsor** as its official on-campus point of contact. Where school policy allows, a senior student leader may manage day-to-day liaison, with appropriate staff oversight retained.

We recommend beginning with **2-5 student ambassadors**. Leadership structures are flexible and may evolve from year to year. Suggested responsibilities include chapter coordination, editorial activities, language/translation outreach and communications.

What Words Without Walls provides

- **Chapter Handbook:** step-by-step guidance for meetings, leadership transitions, activities, local competitions, submission review and promotion.
- **Branding & Media Kit:** logos, visual guidelines, templates and pre-approved social graphics.
- **Translation Network:** access to our international student translation community for selected chapter and publication projects.
- **Global Anthology pathway:** opportunities to nominate outstanding work for Best of the Chapters.
- **Competition & publication access:** clear pathways for students to enter our international competitions and submit to the magazine.
- **International network:** shared initiatives and collaboration opportunities with chapters in other communities.
- **Ongoing support:** direct contact with the Words Without Walls team.

CAS & Duke of Edinburgh alignment

Chapter activities may naturally align with elements of **IB CAS**, particularly Creativity and Service, and may also be relevant to **The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award**, particularly skills development and voluntary service.

Important: Words Without Walls does not certify CAS or Duke of Edinburgh participation. Eligibility, hours and recognition remain subject to each school's CAS Coordinator or Award Leader.

Five steps to start

- 1 Find a faculty sponsor
- 2 Build a founding team of 2-5 students
- 3 Register and connect with Words Without Walls
- 4 Receive the Chapter Handbook + Media Kit
- 5 Choose a local direction and launch your first initiative

Students can get involved now

Submit writing: <https://forms.gle/2M11gKzNxoRk3Kcr8>

Join our international team: <https://forms.gle/1fRevWCST5sHYowV9>

Instagram: @wordswithoutwalls.mag | TikTok: @words.without.wal

All chapter activities remain subject to the host school's safeguarding, branding, competition and student-contact policies.