

Floris Books children's submissions guidelines for SBWN members

We are a small Edinburgh-based publisher creating books for specific niches of the children's book markets in Scotland, the UK and the US.

We are particularly looking for books that feature characters of colour, written by people of colour,* across all the genres and age groups we publish for, outlined below. We also welcome books that include characters from a range of economic and family backgrounds and across the broad spectrums of ability, gender and sexuality.

We love submissions that give something special to readers: that will grab the interest of children in a particular age group and involve them.

Children's novels and chapter books (Kelpies imprint)

Novels for 8-12 year olds – We're looking for voices and characters that stand out from the crowd in any popular children's genre, including fantasy, adventure, humour, real-life issues and historical fiction. These can be standalone or have series potential.

Novels for 10-14 year olds – As above, but they can be a little more challenging in both interest level and complexity, while still suitable for upper primary readers.

Chapter books for 6-9 year olds with black-and-white illustrations – Humour, adventure, strong lead characters, crystal-clear concepts and simple plots work well, often with series potential. We usually pair authors with a suitable illustrator, although anyone who does both is welcome to get in touch!

- Traditionally, we've requested books set in Scotland in these three categories, but this is no longer essential.
- We are not currently looking for older teen or YA books.

Picture books

Paperback picture books for 3-7 year olds with colour illustrations (Picture Kelpies imprint) – We sell these Scottish-focused stories in bookshops and tourist shops all around Scotland. We're looking for books that will appeal to tourists, and themes, characters and settings that look and feel 'Scottish' – but of course that's open to interpretation!

Hardback picture books for 3-7 year olds with colour illustrations (Floris imprint) – These mainly sell in bookshops and online throughout the US and the UK. We're looking for impactful stories with emotional-learning messages or with natural-world themes, often lyrically written and intended to accompany beautiful illustrations.

- We pair authors with a suitable illustrator – no need to illustrate your own work!

Folk and fairy-tale collections

We publish hardback story anthologies for 7-12 year olds, both for Scottish bookshops and our international US/UK list. We are always open to fresh perspectives on traditional tales.

Scottish non-fiction

We publish colour-illustrated non-fiction, from board books to upper primary. These need strong, clear concepts and Scottish themes, for Scottish bookshops and tourist shops.

How to submit

Please include:

- A brief synopsis, e.g. up to one A4 page
- The first three chapters of longer texts; or a complete picture book story
- One or two paragraphs of biography, telling us briefly who you are and what you do
- We prefer to read documents in either Word, Google Docs or PDF. Please note:
 - Simultaneous submissions (to other publishers &/or agents) are fine, but please let Floris know as soon as you are accepted elsewhere.
 - Participation in this programme does not guarantee your work will be published, however you *may* receive feedback.
 - This programme is open until 30 November 2021.

Please send via:

- Email to editor@florisbooks.co.uk
- Flag clearly that you are a member of SBWN, with 'SBWN member submission: [your book title]' in the subject line.
- We will acknowledge your email as soon as possible, but we may take up to two months to assess your work and respond fully. If you do not receive an acknowledgement or a full response after this time, it's fine to send a nudging email.

*This opportunity is open to Black writers and writers of colour who are Scottish or based in Scotland. We use the term 'people of colour' to include people with heritages from African, Caribbean, Latinx, First Nation, South Asian, East Asian, South East Asian and West Asian diasporas including people who identify as 'mixed-race' or multiple heritage.