



Heritage in Schools

New Specialists

The Heritage Council welcomes 49 new Heritage Specialists to the existing Heritage in Schools panel for the next four-year term (2024-2027).

The new panellists, including 9 fluent Irish speakers, will join with the existing members to create a panel of approximately 150 highly skilled professionals covering a very diverse range of topics.

Topics new to the scheme include maritime heritage; wool and fibers; milling and historical food preparation; Cork's Jewish history and culture; heritage through LEGO; blacksmithing and much more!



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

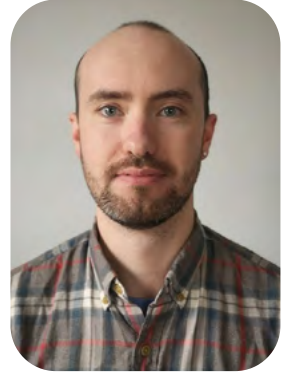
COUNTY CLARE

Oisín Ó Cualáin

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Area: Cultural

Oisín's workshops bring the places around us, the practices of the past, and our traditional arts to life through music! Children will make maps, use raps, sing and dance in Irish and in English to imagine and explore our heritage. Is féidir le hOisín aon cheann de na ceardlanna a dhéanamh trí mheáin na Gaeilge.



Claire Kelly

Specialist Area: Natural

With a visit from Claire children will discover the ocean with whales and dolphins, learn about their important prey species, the Atlantic salmon and the effects of ocean acidification on crustaceans.



COUNTY CORK

Anne Bradley

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Areas: Built / Natural / Cultural

Anne is an experienced primary teacher with a lifelong passion for geology, archaeology, history, heritage and the environment. Visits can incorporate fieldtrips to local sites of geological, archaeological historical or environmental interest.



ER Murray (Elizabeth O'Callaghan)

Specialist Area: Natural / Cultural

An award-winning writer of children's books set in Ireland, Elizabeth O'Callaghan (ER Murray) is passionate about connecting with our local landscape and bringing Irish heritage to life.



Ann Marie Fitzgerald

Specialist Area: Built / Natural

Ann Marie has worked as an educator in primary schools for 25 years and is passionate about Ireland's built and natural heritage. The workshops provided by Ann Marie engage students in these important topics using a range of interactive, hands-on experiences that will have an impact long after her visit has ended.



Anthony Galvin

Specialist Area: Built / Cultural

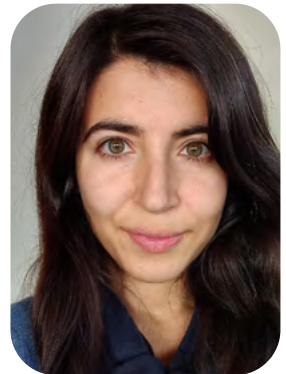
Chasing the Last Prince – explore the legacy of Donal ‘Cam’ O’Sullivan Beare and his desperate march to save his followers after defeat at the Battle of Kinsale, with best-selling author and natural storyteller Anthony Galvin.



Shazia Waheed

Specialist Area: Natural

Shazia offers fun and interactive workshops exploring biodiversity – what it is, why it is important and how to protect it. Whether investigating the marine environment or life on your doorstep in woods and gardens, Shazia will bring nature to the classroom or even better get the children outdoors exploring their local biodiversity.



Ruti Lachs

Specialist Area: Cultural

Ruti is a musician, writer, music teacher and event manager who has researched, produced and presented two short documentaries about Cork's Jewish history and culture - 'Cork Jewish Culture Virtual Walk' which won a National Heritage Week award in 2020, and 'Memories of a Cork Jewish Childhood', in 2021. Students will explore the history and culture of the Jewish community in Cork, with Ruti, through music, song and walking tours.



Conor Ó Buachalla

Specialist Area: Cultural

Conor will introduce children to the enchanting world of Irish folklore and placenames, providing an overview of the rich tapestry of stories that define Ireland's landscape.

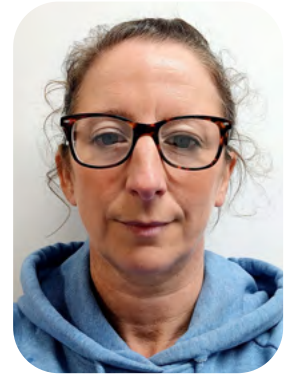


COUNTY DONEGAL

Catherine McCann (The Sea Collective)

Specialist Area: Natural

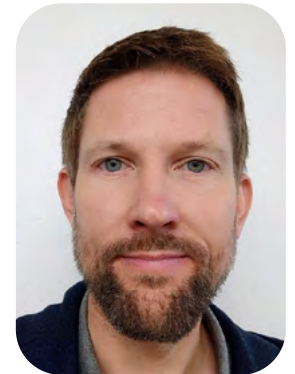
Cat and David McCann have over 20 combined years of experience in research, citizen science and outreach programmes, and have a love for communicating ocean-related themes and concepts to a wide variety of audiences – most particularly to schools. In no small way, their life's passion is inspiring others to connect with and learn more about the incredible marine biodiversity on their doorstep.



David McCann (The Sea Collective)

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COUNTY DONEGAL & MEATH

Angela Byrne

Specialist Area: Built / Cultural

Angela is passionate about bringing history to life for children, by focusing on everyday life and local stories. Sessions are animated with visual sources and an interactive approach to helping pupils find their voices and develop their skills as young Historians.



COUNTY DUBLIN

Francesca Cadeddu

Specialist Area: Built

Travel back in time with Francesca to learn all about Irish history and archaeology through crafts, fun and interactive presentations, and a true hands-on approach bringing history back to life for all classes.



Clare Hamilton

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Area: Natural

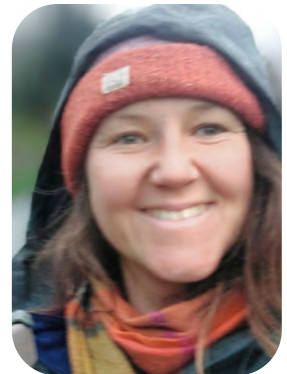
Clare is passionate about reconnecting children with nature and empowering them with the knowledge and tools to tackle climate anxiety through positive actions! Discover the REAL zoo of wonderful creatures living all around us – in our flowers, trees and streams and how they depend on each other!



Dee Hurley

Specialist Area: Natural

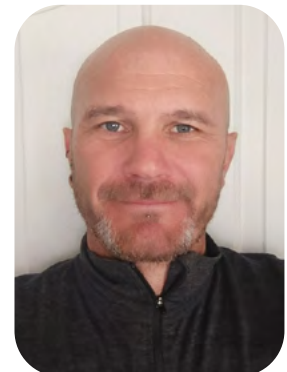
Dee is a Forest School leader and primary school teacher with a keen interest in outdoor activity and nature based learning. Forest school workshops include games, nature art, bush crafts, den building, play and exploration, all while connecting with each other and nature throughout the seasons.



Ross Wareham

Specialist Area: Natural

Ross has extensive experience running Forest School, foraging and bushcraft sessions for primary school children. He introduces children to woodland conservation and native tree planting and promotes nature connection through hands-on play and exploration.



Kornelia Barthel

Specialist Area: Built

With a lifelong passion for history and having specialised in Irish heritage and working extensively with The School of Irish Archaeology, Kornelia is thrilled at the opportunity to bring hands-on learning to students. through innovative workshops, most notably 'The Big Dig'.



Réaltán Ní Leannáin

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Area: Built / Cultural

Réaltán is a writer with many years' experience in the classroom. She incorporates local story, song, folklore and built environment into these interactive workshops, which draw upon the students' own experiences and develop them creatively. As Gaeilge or in English, de réir mar a oireann.



Mick Corcoran

Specialist Area: Built

During Mick's visits, participants will learn not only about their local and national heritage, but also the tools (physical and mental) to take with them into the world outside to help them understand heritage wherever they go. They will learn to become Heritage Detectives and explore their local and national heritage by unravelling the hidden stories behind the archaeology, natural environment and people that shape it!



Joan Power

Specialist Area: Natural

Joan uses her horticultural qualifications, passion and expertise in a hands-on, practical approach to natural heritage education in schools. Her visits focus on restoring the relationship and sense of connection for children with native plants, trees and other wildlife.



COUNTY GALWAY

Siobhán Sloane

Specialist Area: Natural

Siobhán's workshops and field trips encourage a sense of wonder about the natural world; the web of life and our ancestors' traditional use of natural materials. Discover surprising ways that woodland and peatland plants survive and thrive or unearth the secret language of trees. Siobhán offers nature-based games, scavenger hunts and Forest School art and craft activities.



Perpetua McNamee

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Area: Natural

Perpetua uses question and answer techniques, the medium of IT, pictures, Irish traditions and poetry to engage and inspire interest in, and understanding of the importance of wild bird conservation to our biodiversity and our heritage.



COUNTY KERRY

Christopher Barrett

Specialist Areas: Natural / Cultural

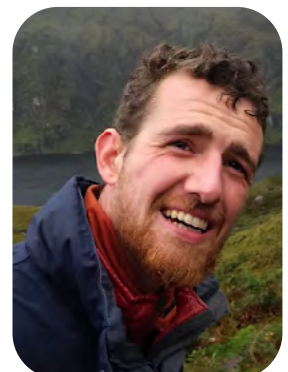
Chris is an experienced outdoor instructor, storyteller and designer. He uses the unique natural world of the Irish landscape to teach students about biodiversity and folklore. Chris firmly believes that the land around us holds the key to unlocking our fascinating shared heritage.



Thomas Canavan

Specialist Area: Natural

Tom's visits will focus on ecology, climate and how we relate to landscape. This covers a range of topics from the geological formation of Ireland in deep time to the waves of migration into the county that have shaped the traditions leading to the way we experience Ireland today. Tom has particular experience in woodland & wetland ecology and organic growing systems in exposed Irish climates.



COUNTY KILDARE

Sorcha Doyle

Specialist Area: Natural

Sorcha works as a Conservation and Education Officer with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Workshops explore Ireland's peatlands through active learning and hands-on activities either in the classroom or through a visit to a local peatland.



Vincent Butler

Specialist Areas: Built / Natural / Cultural

Vincent's Crate of Curiosities workshop is a treasure trove of heritage wonders. The specimens and artifacts are individually unwrapped and shown to the class as he weaves an engaging narrative around each of the items, specially chosen for their individual quality and unique features.



Averil White

Specialist Area: Built

Averil is incredibly passionate about Irish archaeology and gains great satisfaction from sharing her knowledge with children. She joined the School of Irish Archaeology in May 2023 and is currently involved in bringing 'the Big Dig' to primary schools.



Jessica Farrell

Specialist Areas: Built / Natural / Cultural

Jessica uses the medium of LEGO bricks to convey an appreciation for our heritage in a fun and dynamic way. A strong believer in the concept of learning through play, Jessica encourages children towards self-initiated discovery of their local environment through hands-on building, open discussion and creative expression.



COUNTY KILKENNY

Johanna Wakeham

Specialist Area: Natural

Johanna specialises in Forest School activities which are rich in heritage, tradition and the natural environment. Her workshops encompass seasonal projects, traditional skills, arts and crafts from natural resources, and foraging.



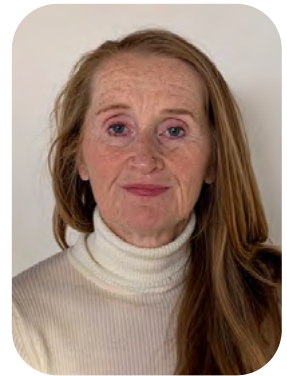
COUNTY LAOIS

Fiona Dunne

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Area: Natural

Fiona is a teacher with extensive experience of working in schools. She works as a volunteer on a number of nature projects including Abbeyleix Bog. Through this work she has developed expertise on peatlands, in particular on the raised bog, varied habitats and biodiversity value of bogs.



COUNTY LEITRIM

Helena Golden

Specialist Area: Cultural

Helena is an experienced Irish artisan with a deep-rooted passion for basketry, nature, foraging and weaving. With years of teaching various forms of basketry and craft, she brings the essence of sustainable, eco friendly, Irish craft to your fingertips and helps children to connect with their natural environment.



Dara Timpson

Specialist Area: Natural

Dara is passionate about freshwater ecology and has been engaging with students of all ages for over 15 years. He provides interactive, hands-on aquatic workshops, where children can explore the biodiversity of their local streams, rivers and lakes.

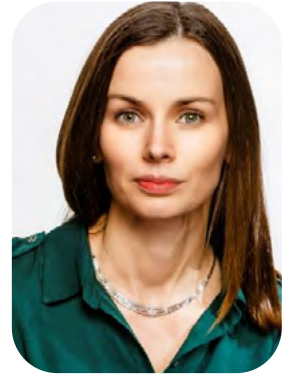


COUNTY LIMERICK

Kate Harrold

Specialist Areas: Built / Natural / Cultural

As manager for Lough Gur heritage site in County Limerick, Kate specialises in environmental awareness & care backed up with qualifications in environmental law, history and heritage studies. As a qualified teacher Kate will deliver information using approved teaching approaches supported by over 20 years of practice in the heritage sector.



Richard Eaton

Specialist Area: Cultural

Richard a working blacksmith who will bring his mobile forge to schools to make an item from history. Depending on age and height, pupils may help by pumping the bellows. Richard will demonstrate metal slamping techniques, and pupils will design and create a coin to take back in to the classroom.



COUNTY MAYO

Ellie McEwan

Specialist Areas: Natural / Cultural

Connecting children with their natural world and cultural heritage through engaging and inspiring hands-on activities. Ellie brings her infectious enthusiasm and love for native fauna and flora to the hearts of children of all ages through workshops and Forest School programs, delivered on or off school site.



COUNTY MEATH

Jesmond Harding

Specialist Area: Natural

Learn all about the magical world of butterflies, moths and their environment with Jesmond. How you can help butterflies to survive in our changing world, and why they are in trouble. Learn through film and imagery, and by direct experience of nature's brightest jewels. Jesmond has a large collection of mounted butterflies and photos of all of Ireland's butterflies and many of our moths.



Lorna McCormack

Specialist Area: Cultural

Lorna has been bringing wool education to schools since 2019 and she sees her work as vital to the national school curriculum, which recognizes the importance of teaching children about sustainability, natural resources, and traditional crafts. Her passion for wool is contagious as she inspires young learners to appreciate the value of this unique and versatile material.



Lucy Forde

Specialist Area: Cultural

Lucy explores historical food preparation with engaging and thought-provoking workshops. Her experience includes time as a professional baker and providing tours at Martry Mills in Co. Meath. Lucy holds a master's degree in journalism and is passionate about getting children engaged in the story of where their food comes from.



COUNTY ROSCOMMON

Daniel Curley

Specialist Areas: Built / Cultural

Daniel will host school visits to Rathcroghan Visitor Centre and the Rathcroghan Archaeological Landscape, to learn about Irish archaeology and history, cultural heritage, mythology and storytelling, folklore, and traditional farming practices.



COUNTY TIPPERARY

Greta Ní Riain

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Areas: Natural / Cultural

Greta is a Forest School guide, a herbalist, a primary school teacher, gardener and musician whose deepest passions lie in the passing on of these skills to children in an engaging, active and meaningful way.



Edwina Newport

Specialist Areas: Built / Cultural

Edwina will explore the concept of towns and their influence on creating and maintaining a sense of place and community for their inhabitants with a particular focus on small Irish towns (pop. < 3000) their origins, settlement patterns and characteristics.

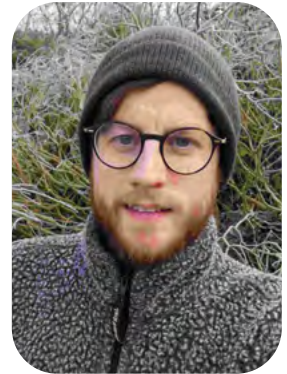


Andy O'Rourke

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Area: Built

Andy has 14 years experience as a primary school teacher and now facilitates Forest School sessions on school grounds or in local woodlands. Learn how to build dens and tie rope swings, craft your own necklace or even make your very own pencil from scratch from the hedgerow. Andy also offers workshops on *the history of the Irish home - inside and out*. Explore our vernacular built heritage. Learn about cob, clay, lime and thatch, churn your own butter or bake bread.



COUNTY WATERFORD

Catherine Twomey

Fluency in Irish

Specialist Area: Natural

A lifelong interest in our native trees, wild flowers, birds, minibeasts, and other animals and their habitats has led Catherine to experience the pleasure and wonder of the natural world and to consider these questions: What is biodiversity? Why is it important? Have we got it? How can we improve it around our school and locality?



Andrew Doherty

Specialist Areas: Natural / Cultural

Andrew was previously a commercial fisherman who now researches and writes about the maritime and fishing history of SE Ireland. He provides walks and talks with a variety of props to assist in engaging students and bringing the sea and its mysteries into the classroom.



Katriina Bent

Specialist Area: Natural

Katriina is a professional ecologist who uses the senses, spontaneous curiosity and emerging questions as leads for reconnecting with nature. Both knowledge building and emotional experiences are important. To build connection and observation skills, she uses interactive and shared learning to improve the level of nature literacy



COUNTY WESTMEATH

Eliya Lavine

Specialist Area: Natural

Eliya shares her passion for nature connection with the groups she engages with. Guided by the Forest School approach, organic gardening, and ecological climate awareness, Eliya's sessions are infused with play, creativity, movement, and song - highlighting experiential learning through the hands, head and heart.



COUNTY WEXFORD

Sheila Forsey

Specialist Areas: Built / Cultural

Sheila is intrigued by Ireland's past and her workshops will transport students on a magic carpet to ancient Ireland through the lens of story. She creates a holistic learning experience fostering a deep appreciation of heritage, culture, nature and sense of place.



COUNTY WICKLOW

Móna McCrea

Specialist Area: Natural

Explore the biodiversity of the marine plants and animals on your local seashore with a fun, hands-on field trip with Mona Crea of SEASHOREKIDS.



Liz Tiernan

Specialist Area: Natural

Meet our trees talk & walk sessions with Liz are the result of her lifelong passion for trees and are an awe-inspiring way for children to learn more about them and to connect with them. Liz is a nature specialist who has been working in biodiversity education for many years.





Heritage in Schools

The Heritage Council, Áras na hOidhreachta,
Church Lane, Kilkenny, Ireland R95 X264
T +353 56 777 0 777

www.heritageinschools.ie



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council