Your guide to informal Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Education

Have fun and experience STEM in real life!
This initiative supports Pillar 3 of the STEM Education Policy Statement by providing opportunities for all learners to participate in STEM education through informal, co-curricular and extra-curricular programmes.
Contents

Foreword  4
SFI Discover Centres Network  5
SFI Discover Centre Primary School Programmes  6
  ▶ Antrim  6
  ▶ Armagh  6
  ▶ Clare  7
  ▶ Cork  8
  ▶ Donegal  10
  ▶ Dublin  11
  ▶ Galway  17
  ▶ Kerry  18
  ▶ Kildare  19
  ▶ Kilkenny  21
  ▶ Laois  22
  ▶ Leitrim  22
  ▶ Limerick  23
  ▶ Longford  23
  ▶ Mayo  24
  ▶ Offaly  25
  ▶ Roscommon  26
  ▶ Tipperary  26
  ▶ Waterford  28
  ▶ Westmeath  29
  ▶ Wexford  29
  ▶ Wicklow  31

SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Programme  32
The SFI Discover Science and Maths Award  33

‘New’ Discover Centres are currently pending full accreditation.
Creating an engaged and scientifically-informed public is crucial to Ireland’s economic and societal future. To achieve this, we will need to place national emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths education in schools, as outlined in the STEM Education Policy Statement released by the Department of Education and Skills. Inspiring young people to pursue STEM subjects beyond compulsory education is key to addressing the increasing demand for STEM graduates globally and will be essential for continued economic growth for Ireland. At Science Foundation Ireland we recognise the superb efforts to promote STEM in primary schools across the country, and we believe that encouraging young people to learn through activities beyond the classroom will help us to build on these efforts. The SFI Discover Centres provide the ideal platform for this. There are now over 60 across Ireland, each offering accredited workshops allowing children to explore STEM through hands-on, interactive approaches, engaging them on a physical and sensory level.

Immersing pupils in STEM in this way allows us to work together to equip young people with the skills necessary for an enjoyable and rewarding journey through their education and career. We are allowing them to become familiar with their potential in the world of STEM, so that they may be inspired and empowered to become the leading scientists, engineers and innovators of the future.
SFI Discover Centres Network

Through the SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths programme, Science Foundation Ireland has brought together a network of SFI Discover Centres. These centres offer accredited workshops and activities for primary schools to help young people engage with Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Space in an informal set up.

The activities offered by the SFI Discover Centres supports students to apply their creativity, knowledge and skills across the STEM disciplines through real life, fun interactions which is in line with the national STEM Education Policy Statement.

Each of the SFI Discover Centres provide schools with an opportunity to engage in science education outside of the classroom, yet in a curriculum relevant and inquiry-based way. Engaging with this network offers a chance to meet scientists, engineers and a range of people who use STEM knowledge and skills every day.

Centres include the Dublin Zoo, National Parks, interpretive centres, observatories, aquariums, a fab lab and many more.

If you’re planning your school tour, trying to bring the science and maths curriculum to life or interested in helping your students enjoy learning outside of the classroom, here is the ideal guide to a network of centres to help you. Additionally, many of our Centres offer digital content and online workshops, offering the opportunity to engage with informal STEM learning from your own classroom.

Schools can gain credit towards their SFI Discover Science and Maths Awards by visiting a Centre, either in person or virtually (for more details, see p33)

This brochure details the network, the location of the centres and the relevant contact details.

Have fun and experience STEM in real life!
SFI Discover Centre Primary School Programmes

ANTRIM

W5, Belfast

W5’s interactive science and discovery exhibits stimulate curiosity, generate questioning and increase understanding on a variety of topics including flight, technology, biodiversity, senses and light. Science-based workshops include Toying with Forces, Destination Space and Technology Trials.

Contact Details
Email: educationqueries@w5online.co.uk  Tel: +44 28 9046 7700
Website: www.w5online.co.uk  Address: W5, Queens Quay, Belfast

ARMAGH

Armagh Observatory and Planetarium

Armagh Planetarium takes visitors on a flight through the Cosmos in the immersive Digital Theatre. The centre also provides exciting workshops and interactive exhibits to help children learn more about the world and universe around them. Visit our website to find out more about our brand new Cosmic Classroom virtual experience.

Contact Details
Email: reception@armaghplanet.com  Tel: 028 3752 3689 (+44 28 3752 3689 from the south)
Website: www.armagh.space  Address: College Hill, Armagh, Co. Armagh, BT61 9DB
Aillwee Caves and Birds of Prey Centre

Aillwee Cave offers a hands-on learning experience about life above and below the Burren’s dramatic karst landscape, how sensitive it is and how it must be protected. At the Birds of Prey Centre, students will learn about how birds of prey fly, adapt to their environment and their role in the ecosystem.

Contact Details
Email: tracy@aillweecave.ie
Website: www.aillweecave.ie  Address: Ballycahill, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare

Shannon Aviation Museum

Aviation Discovery Tours introduce the science behind flight with workshops that encourage children to learn through their own experience. Students can test the theories with a fun, hands-on, flight simulator experience, then have an interactive ‘please do touch’ tour of the aviation museum.

Contact Details
Email: irishaviationfoundation@gmail.com  Tel: 061 363 687 / 086 358 0644
Website: www.shannonaviationmuseum.com
Address: Link Road, Shannon, Co. Clare

Irish Seed Savers

The Irish Seed Savers Association’s school programme introduces students and teachers to the importance of biodiversity and local food systems, using practical holistic nature-based outdoor activities. The workshops explore specific seasonal nature themes, such as heritage seed saving; pollination and pollinators; organic gardening; ecology and wildlife; native flora and fauna; native habitats and ecosystems.

Contact Details
Email: education@irishseedsavers.ie  Tel: 061 921 866/856
Website: www.irishseedsavers.ie  Address: Capparoe, Scarriff, Co. Clare
CORK

- **CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory**
  Ireland’s fun and exciting location to learn about the universe. The centre offers CPD for teachers and workshops for students from infants to 6th year to develop their curiosity about space and increase their understanding of science. Their StarDome Planetarium can travel to schools nationwide.

  **Contact Details**
  Email: info@bco.ie  
  Tel: 021 432 6120  
  Website: www.bco.ie  
  Address: Castle Road, Blackrock, Cork City

- **Doneraile Park Education Centre**
  The Doneraile Park Education Centre provides children with an understanding of the ecology of a parkland demesne. The activities will revolve around ecological habitats and woodland, wetlands and aquatic environments in the park.

  **Contact Details**
  Email: booking@ballyhouraoutdoorclassroom.com  
  Tel: 086 382 5314  
  Website: www.doneraileie.wordpress.com  
  Address: Turnpike Road, Doneraile, Co. Cork

- **Education in Nature**
  Education in Nature run a range of educational courses within the stunning Manch Estate in West Cork. The primary school activities are all curriculum linked and encourage children to explore the natural world around them, including woodland, pond and river habitats.

  **Contact Details**
  Email: niki@greeneconomyfoundation.ie  
  Tel: 023 882 2823  
  Website: www.greeneconomyfoundation.ie  
  Address: Manch Estate, Ballineen, Co. Cork
CORK

Fota Wildlife Park

Fota Wildlife Park offers DPSM registered schools a specially-created day-long option that promotes science, technology, engineering and maths. Ecology, practical woodland activities and a guided tour of the park are all included and the course counts towards schools’ Primary Science award. Available from September to April.

Contact Details
Email: education@fotawildlife.ie (Booking is essential)  Tel: 021 481 2678 ext 206
Website: www.fotawildlife.ie  Address: Fota, Carrigtohill, Co. Cork

The Hollies Centre for Practical Sustainability

The Hollies Centre for Practical Sustainability offers a wide range of environmental education workshops which promote learning through hands-on experience and activity. The centre offers a variety of curriculum links to SESE, SPHE and PE.

Contact Details
Email: info@thehollies.ie  Tel: 023 884 7001
Website: www.thehollies.ie  Address: Enniskeane, Co. Cork

The StreamSchool

Classes visiting ‘The StreamSchool’ enjoy a dynamic lesson in River Ecology by participating in a thrilling Field Trip augmented by lessons provided by the unique River Aquarium, a ‘working’ Catchment Model, and other exhibits and presentations. Don’t forget your wellies!

Contact Details
Email: lifetimelab@corkcity.ie  Tel: 021 4941500
Website: www.streamscapes.ie
Address: Coomhola Salmon Trust Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork
CORK

- **Lifetime Lab at Old Cork Waterworks**

  Lifetime Lab, located at Old Cork Waterworks contains interactive exhibitions, steam engine and boiler rooms, dedicated STEM classroom, playground and is ideal for primary STEM engagement. Schools may avail of hands-on primary science workshops, tactile primary maths workshops or a discovery tour of Cork’s Industrial Heritage.

  **Contact Details**
  
  Email: lifetimelab@corkcity.ie   **Tel:** 021 494 1500
  
  Website: www.lifetimelab.ie   **Address:** Lee Road, Sunday’s Well, Cork

DONEGAL

- **Glenveagh Education Centre**

  Glenveagh Education Centre is open all year round with a wide range of activity days for schools available. These include special days incorporating topics such as biodiversity, maths, sustainable development, geography, science, nature and woodlands. We can also tailor a visit to meet specific requirements.

  **Contact Details**
  
  Email: glenveagh-education@chg.gov.ie   **Tel:** 076 100 2691
  
  Website: www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie
  
  **Address:** Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
LYIT Coding

Our fun filled coding workshops are a great experience for both children and teachers alike. Teachers learn how to introduce coding concepts and critical thinking to children using some of the fantastic applications and toys that are currently available and see how these can be introduced into the classroom. Children learn how to critically and creatively solve problems using code. Children work in teams to write code to instruct a character in a game how best to solve specific problems. They learn some of the fundamental coding concepts through the gamification of problems. Later children are introduced to some Drones and Robots, they write code on iPads to control the Robots and Drones.

Contact Details
Email: John.Conaghan@lyit.ie / Gary.Cullen@lyit.ie / Karen.Doherty@lyit
Tel: 074 91 86306

Airfield Estate

Airfield Estate is a farm and gardens with an aim to inspire and enable people to make better food choices. With farm animals, fruit and veg as well as a new cookery school we can cater for all ages and abilities and learn together how food is produced.

Contact Details
Email: education@airfield.ie   Tel: 01 969 6666
Website: www.airfield.ie
Address: Airfield Estate, Overend Way, Dundrum, Dublin 14, D14 C2F3
Bricks 4 Kidz Creativity Centre
Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO® Technic workshops take place in primary schools and Creativity Centres in Dublin and Wexford and explore the principles of science, technology, engineering and maths through LEGO®. The Bricks 4 Kidz approach to learning is imaginative, multi-sensory and fun, creating a dynamic learning experience.

Contact Details
Email: dkenna@bricks4kidz.com / anita@eduplay.ie  Tel: 087 449 1262
Website: www.bricks4kidz.ie

DCU Lego Innovation Studio
The DCU LEGO® Education Innovation Studio enables students to discover Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in a fun, engaging and hands-on manner. Working with a range of LEGO® Education materials students will be introduced to the world of robotics by building and programming robots to complete various challenges, to encourage an interest in real-world issues and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers. Our LEGO® Education Academy Certified facilitators will work alongside the students, supporting them as they learn to apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM) in solving the range of challenges they encounter as they design their autonomous robots. Creativity and innovative thinking will be harnessed to design solutions and participants will develop computational thinking concepts and competencies, critical thinking along with team-building skills.

Contact Details
Email: info@dculeis.ie  Tel: 01 884 2068
Website: www.dculeis.ie
DUBLIN

- **Dublin Zoo**
  With over 400 animals and state-of-the-art education facilities, Dublin Zoo is an ideal venue for students to embrace the skills and objectives of the SESE and Maths curricula. Schools can choose programmes to learn about wildlife in Dublin Zoo, how to grow their own food or go digging for dinosaur fossils.

  **Contact Details**
  Email: education@dublinzoo.ie   Tel: 01 474 8932
  Website: www.dublinzoo.ie   Address: Phoenix Park, Dublin 7

- **ECO-UNESCO**
  ECO-UNESCO delivers workshops to schools, exploring issues regarding sustainability and development and how they affect our communities. As a result, young people become empowered, and agents of change within their school and communities.

  **Contact Details**
  Email: info@ecounesco.ie   Tel: 01 662 5491
  Website: www.ecounesco.ie   Address: 9 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2

- **EPIC: The Irish Emigration Museum**
  EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum: In a collision of tales and technology, EPIC tells the story of 1500 years of Irish history. You and your students will be immersed in - and perhaps surprised by – the legends and legacies that meander through the historic vaults of The chq Building. In an unlikely merge of history, culture and state-of-the-art interactive technology, Irish history, identity and influence truly come to life. From high-tech touch screens and motion sensor quizzes; from a whispering library to atmospheric video imagery – EPIC is an ode to cross-curricular exploration, innovative education, and overall, it’s fun for everyone!

  **Contact Details**
  Email: groups@epicchq.com   Tel: 01 906 0861
  Website: www.epicchq.com/education
  Address: CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, North Dock, Dublin 1
Global Action Plan (GAP), Ireland

Global Action Plan (GAP) is an environmental organisation focusing on how people can take practical environmental action in their everyday lives for a more sustainable world. GAP offer hands-on school tours on the topic of garden biodiversity which takes the hunt for wildlife knowledge to the outdoors!

Contact Details
Email: info@globalactionplan.ie  Tel: 01 883 2185
Website: www.globalactionplan.ie  Address: Axis Ballymun Main Street, Dublin 9

Imaginosity

Imaginosity, Dublin children’s museum is a child-centred, creative, educational space. Imaginosity’s three floors and 18 interactive exhibits are designed to inspire learning through play with it’s design complimenting Aistear (and the NCCA Primary Curriculum) providing a space to play, and learn in, together.

Contact Details
Email: info@imaginosity.ie  Tel: 01 217 6130
Website: www.imaginosity.ie
Address: The Plaza, Beacon South Quarter, Sandyford, Dublin 18

Irish National Sailing and Powerboat School

Explore the seashore and identify the marine life in a hands-on curriculum based educational activity. Children will investigate ecosystems around Dun Laoghaire, from rock pooling to the local caves of the harbour. The Irish National Sailing & Powerboat School is open for tours from March to October.

Contact Details
Email: sailing@inss.ie  Tel: 01 284 4195
Website: www.inss.ie  Address: West Pier, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
DUBLIN

The National Maritime Museum of Ireland

The National Maritime Museum in Dun Laoghaire’s 183-year-old Mariners Church is a non-profit charity operated 7 days a week by 40 unpaid volunteers plus 18 Community Employment staff. Its skill base consists of master mariners, trawler skipper/fisheries scientist, yachtmen and women, engineers, architects, school teachers, historians and artists, all dedicated to promoting Ireland’s rich cultural and STEM maritime heritage. SOS! Past to Present: Maritime Communication and Connection:– Our varied range of exhibits in the Museums collection, allow students to explore, investigate and discover themes such as ‘Communication and Connection’ in the laying of the Trans Atlantic Cable, Navigation and light (captivating Bailey Optic lens exhibit) and the wealth of pioneering mariners and scientists with Irish connections such as Sir Francis Beaufort (father of the Beaufort Scale, John Philip Holland (father of the modern submarine) and local Master Mariner of note Captain Robert Halpin, Captain of the Brunel-designed SS Great Eastern responsible for the laying of the infamous Trans Atlantic telegraph cable and precursor to contemporary wifi! All aboard!! We offer curriculum based STEM tours suitable for primary school age groups. Students begin an interactive journey exploring navigation, marine two-way radio and deep-sea cable technology. Investigate the Bailey Optic, RMS Leinster ship model and code flags. Tie a sailor’s knot and take a Pirate Selfie! Be inspired by upcycled waste Sea-creatures. Through storytelling, hear of innovative Irish inventions, scientists and local mariners on a voyage of discovery with our experienced guides.

Contact Details
Email: STEMofficer@mariner.ie   Tel: 01 214 3964
Website: www.mariner.ie
Address: Mariners Church, Haigh Terrace, Dun Laoghaire, Co.Dublin
DUBLIN

North Bull Island Interpretive Centre
North Bull Island was designated the first UNESCO biosphere reserve in the Republic of Ireland, a designation which now extends to all of Dublin Bay. The island is a scientific area of conservation and also a state nature reserve. The interpretive centre caters for groups of all ages with an interest in ecology.

Contact Details
Email: pat.corrigan@dublincity.ie  Tel: 01 833 8341
Website: www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-recreation-culture-dublin-city-parks-visit-park-north-bull-island-unesco/your
Address: North Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dublin

The Rediscovery Centre
The Rediscovery Centre offers a huge variety of exciting hands-on workshops in STEM and environmental topics. Workshops link with the primary curriculum and can be delivered in schools or in our innovative centre. We also offer virtual workshops that can be delivered live to your classroom for an interactive engaging experience and hands-on activities.

Contact Details
Email: education@rediscoverycentre.ie / academy@rediscoverycentre.ie
Tel: 01 893 3801  Website: www.rediscoverycentre.ie
Address: The Boiler House, Ballymun Road, Ballymun, Dublin 9
GALWAY

- **An Gáirdín, Organic and Ecology Centre**
  An Gáirdín provides an introduction to the wonderful world of nature by taking a journey into the habitats and processes that embody Ireland’s natural heritage. Through hands-on activities and through the seasons of the natural year, students learn about seeds, planting, native hedgerows and wildlife, together with organic food, renewable energy and harvested rainwater.

  **Contact Details**
  **Email:** angairdin1@gmail.com  **Tel:** 090 974 1689  **Website:** www.angairdin.ie
  **Address:** St Brigids Road, Fairyhill, Portumna, Co. Galway

- **Brigit’s Garden**
  Brigit’s Garden offers exciting, hands-on workshops about the natural environment and Celtic heritage. Curriculum-linked workshop themes include biodiversity, energy and global citizenship. The site includes woodlands, ponds, wild-flower meadows, Celtic gardens, a polytunnel and renewable energy installations.

  **Contact Details**
  **Email:** info@brigitsgarden.ie  **Tel:** 091 550 905
  **Website:** www.brigitsgarden.ie  **Address:** Pollagh, Rosscahill, Co. Galway

- **Galway Atlantaquaria**
  Galway Atlantaquaria offer a range of curriculum linked workshops promoting Science and the marine world, with a particular focus on our native species and environment. School groups can participate in both indoor and outdoor workshops including aquarium tours, Science, Engineering and Maths trails along with Seashore Safaris and Animal Anatomy classes.

  **Contact Details**
  **Email:** info@nationalaquarium.ie  **Tel:** 091 585 100
  **Website:** www.nationalaquarium.ie  **Address:** Toft Park, Salthill, Galway
**Crag Cave**
The Discover Centre workshop at Crag Cave encourages students to discover their inner geologist through interactive games, exploring and investigating the cave, and a paleontological dig! Students will learn about the geological history of Ireland and how it impacts the world around them.

**Contact Details**
**Email:** info@cragcave.com  
**Tel:** 066 714 1244  
**Website:** www.cragcave.com  
**Address:** Crag, Castleisland, Co. Kerry

---

**Killarney National Park Education Centre**
The Killarney National Park Education Centre offers a wide range of curriculum-linked courses which encourage children to learn about their environment in a fun and interactive way. The activities are primarily woodland-based and include pond-dipping, microscopes/magnifiers, scavenger hunts and ecologically themed games.

**Contact Details**
**Email:** knpeducationcentre@eircom.net (booking is essential)  
**Tel:** 064 663 5960  
**Website:** www.killarneynationalpark.ie/learn  
**Address:** Knockreer House, The Demesne, Killarney, Co. Kerry

---

**Oceanworld Aquarium**
Oceanworld Aquarium is home to hundreds of different marine species. The aquarium focuses on education, conservation and research and can bring your lessons to life with fun and interactive guided tours, hands on science experiments, games, trails, puppet shows and more.

**Contact Details**
**Email:** info@dingle-oceanworld.ie  
**Tel:** 066 915 2111  
**Website:** www.dingle-oceanworld.ie  
**Address:** Dingle, Co. Kerry
KERRY

- **Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco and Activity Park**

  Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre offers a range of courses encouraging children to learn about biodiversity and natural heritage in a hands-on and interactive way. Students explore their environment through activities such as pond-dipping, birdwatching, pootering, game activities and mammal trapping.

  **Contact Details**
  
  Email: education@traleebaywetlands.org; info@traleebaywetlands.org  
  Tel: 066 712 6700  
  Website: www.traleebaywetlands.org  
  Address: Ballyard Road, Ballyard, Tralee, Co. Kerry

KILDARE

- **Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Bog of Allen Nature Centre**

  This centre combines fun and active learning in a safe and supervised environment. Activities for visiting primary schools include constructing pond bug dials, a pond dipping session for mini-beasts, investigating surface tension, exploration of a peatland habitat or a creepy crawly safari.

  **Contact Details**
  
  Email: bogs@ipcc.ie  
  Tel: 045 860 133  
  Website: www.ipcc.ie  
  Address: Lullymore West, Rathangan, Co. Kildare
Irish National Stud and Gardens

The National Stud provides children with a unique environment for learning about the thoroughbred racehorse. The children also follow an environmental trail within the grounds of St. Fiachra's Garden exploring the flora and fauna and identifying plants and animals that live in the local habitat.

Contact Details
Email: reservations@irishnationalstud.ie  Tel: 045 521 617
Website: www.irishnationalstud.ie  Address: Brallistown Little, Tully, Co. Kildare

Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park

Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park offers a hands-on, fun, highly informative learning experience for primary schools to explore the world around us. The programme was designed by the late Dick Warner, environmentalist, with the aim of generating a passion for science and nature in children.

Contact Details
Email: raylullymore@gmail.com  Tel: 045 870 238
Website: www.lullymoreheritagepark.com
Address: Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare
Castlecomer Discovery Park

Castlecomer Discovery Park offers curriculum-linked activities focusing on investigation skills, the scientific-method, data collection and problem-solving. Students explore past and present environments and lifeforms through nature connection, nature trails, scavenger hunts, bug collections, pond-dipping, maths trails and a coal-mining and fossil museum.

Contact Details
Email: educationofficer@discoverypark.ie  Tel: 056 444 0707
Website: www.discoverypark.ie
Address: The Estate Yard, Drumgoole, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

The National Reptile Zoo

The National Reptile Zoo is Ireland’s only reptile zoo! We are delighted to offer a range SFI approved activities that happen in the zoo, in your school or virtually. Study ecology by building your own habitat, chat with conservationists in the wild virtually or meet animals through our ZooZoom or tours.

Contact Details
Email: info@nationalreptilezoo.ie  Tel: 056 776 1783
Website: www.nationalreptilezoo.ie
Address: Hebron Business Park, Hebron Rd, Leggetsrath West, Kilkenny
LAOIS

Laois Outdoor Education at Emo Court
This workshop includes a guided tour of Emo Court by OPW staff, followed by a guided nature & science walk in the grounds of Emo Court. Please ring us to check if the house is open to visitors on your desired date. The parkland garden however will be open. Here children are encouraged to study the house’s architecture, learn about its inhabitants, identify trees, wildflowers and explore the animal life in Emo Court’s parkland. The workshop includes links to the Science, Geography, History, P.E. and Art curricula.

Contact Details
Email: info@laoisoutdooreducation.ie    Tel: 087 774 1846
Website: www.outdoorlearning.ie
Address: 10 Lake Edge, Kilminchy, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 Y9X5

LEITRIM

Leitrim Organic Centre
The Organic Centre offers schools a funfilled environmental programme for all ages. Workshops cover a range of topics including local food production, pond dipping, native tree and wildflower identification, seed saving, environmental crafts, soil examination, minibeast hunts and food webs.

Contact Details
Email: info@theorganiccentre.ie    Tel: 071 985 4338
Website: www.theorganiccentre.ie
Address: Sraud (Conolly), Rossinver, Co. Leitrim
LIMERICK

Ballyhoura Outdoor Classroom, Griston Bog

Ballyhoura Outdoor Classrooms are unique, inspiring places provided by Ballyhoura Heritage and Environment CLG, to be part of local school’s learning environment. Griston Bog is especially designed for outdoor activities in Science and Maths. We offer tours to allow you to get close to nature and history through exciting activities!

Contact Details
Email: reception@ballyhoura.org  Tel: 063 91300
Website: www.ballyhouraoutdoorclassroom.com
Address: Griston Bog, Glennahaglish, Ballylanders, Co. Limerick

Lough Gur Heritage Centre

Lough Gur is one of Ireland’s most important archaeological and historic sites. The primary school programme will introduce children to the wonders of astronomy, archaeology and environmental heritage through various pre-approved DPSM activities.

Contact Details
Email: info@loughgur.com  Tel: 061 385 186
Website: www.loughgur.com
Address: Honey Fitz Theatre, Patrickswell, Lough Gur, Co. Limerick

LONGFORD

Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre

Rooted in history and mythology, Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre provides active learning experiences. The DPSM programmes integrate visual art with science and maths. Explore the natural heritage of the garden or be inspired by light and colour before creating in the art room.

Contact Details
Email: creativeardagh@gmail.com  Tel: 086 302 7602
Website: www.creativeardagh.blogspot.com  Address: Ardagh, Co. Longford
Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park

Wild Nephin National Park comprises 15,000 hectares of rugged mountains, lakes and expansive blanket bog. The Ballycroy Visitor Centre houses an interactive exhibition on National Park habitats. Other facilities include a dedicated classroom for education programmes, and a nature trail with dipping pond.

Contact Details
Email: margaret.flaherty@chg.gov.ie  
Tel: 098 49 888
Website: www.wildnephinnationalpark.ie
Address: National Parks & Wildlife Service, Ballycroy Village, Westport, Co Mayo

Museum of Country Life, National Museum of Ireland

The Country Life Museum tells the story of ordinary people living in rural Ireland from 1850 to 1950. Their DPSM activities focus on ‘science in everyday life’ through tours and hands-on workshops. Topics include clothing, food and seasonal change.

Contact Details
Email: educationtph@museum.ie  
Tel: 094 903 1751
Website: www.museum.ie/Country-Life
Address: Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
OFFALY

- **Birr Castle Gardens and Science Centre**
  Children can explore the Science Centre, learn about the creation of the world’s largest telescope built in 1845 and so many more engineering and scientific feats. Educational workshops and event are created with school’s curriculum and ties back into the rich scientific history of our location where possible. Birr Castle Demense is an extraordinary place created over generations and remains an environmental and rich scientific site.

  **Contact Details**
  Email: education@birrcastle.com  
  Tel: 057 912 0336 
  Website: www.birrcastle.com  
  Address: Rosse Row, Birr, County Offaly, R42 VO27

- **Clara Bog Visitor Centre**
  Clara Bog Visitor Centre provides a platform for visitors to discover the relevance of raised bogs to our understanding of history, a unique biodiversity and vital ecosystem services. The tour includes a range of interactive curriculum-linked activities including bog detective games and a nature walk.

  **Contact Details**
  Email: claraguides@chg.gov.ie  
  Tel: 057 936 8878 
  Website: www.npws.ie/nature-reserves/offaly  
  Address: Clara, Co. Offaly
**ROSCOMMON**

- **Arigna Mining Experience**

  The Arigna Mining Experience in Co. Roscommon will certainly appeal to those looking for a day out with a difference. This visitor centre is a community inspired initiative that preserves the 400 year coal mining heritage of this area, and allows visitors an insight into coal mining life as it was in the Arigna Valley for centuries. The visit to the museum includes access to an exhibit area where there is a DVD presentation and a wonderful authentic photographic exhibition. The highlight of the visit is an underground tour with an ex-miner as your tour guide where the visitor is brought to the mine’s coal face and where lighting and sound effects add to the reality of the experience.

  **Contact Details**
  
  **Email:** tours@arignamingexperience.ie  
  **Tel:** 071 964 6466  
  **Website:** www.arignamingexperience.ie  
  **Address:** Deereenavoggy, Arigna, Co. Roscommon

**TIPPERARY**

- **Cabraugh Wetlands**

  At Cabragh Wetlands, children are given the chance to discover their natural heritage in a pristine, multi-habitat natural environment. The well-equipped interpretive centre, experienced education team and unique set of wetland habitats make this visit a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

  **Contact Details**
  
  **Email:** cabraghwetlandsmembers@gmail.com  
  **Tel:** 0504 43879  
  **Website:** www.cabraghwetlands.ie  
  **Address:** Cabragh Visitor & Interpretive Centre, Cabragh, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
Cloncannon Biofarm

Cloncannon Biofarm offers students the opportunity to recognise ‘science and maths all around me’ on the organic farm. The curriculum related activities also inspire the students’ curiosity in the subjects of history, geography, growing healthy organic food and wildlife gardening.

Contact Details
Email: ofarrejf@tcd.ie  Tel: 087 922 7957
Website: www.cloncannonbiofarm.com
Address: Cloncanon Lodge Knockanroger, Cloncannon Ireland

Mitchelstown Cave

At Mitchelstown Cave students will receive a tour of the caves and witness dripstone formations, stalagmites, stalactites and huge calcite columns. They will learn about earth science, the chemistry of cave formation, fossils and the cave ecosystem through hands-on activities.

Contact Details
Email: visit@mitchelstowncave.com  Tel: 052 746 7246
Website: www.mitchelstowncave.com
Address: Burncourt, Cahir, Tipperary, Ireland. E21 H920

WeCreate Fab Lab

WeCreate is a unique technology and creative workspace located in the Cloughjordan Ecovillage. In their Fab Lab, students can use digital fabrication tools, such as 3D printers and laser cutters, and participate in activities and hands-on projects to investigate a range of themes in the Science and Maths curricula.

Contact Details
Email: info@wecreate.ie  Tel: 0505 36026
Website: www.wecreate.ie/dpsm
Address: North Tipperary Green Enterprise Park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary
WATERFORD

- **Kilbarry Nature Park**
The nature park provides an ideal opportunity to explore nature and biodiversity within Waterford City. It encompasses an integrated wetland, wildflower meadows, Kilbarry Bog and all this on a remediated landfill! What better place to talk about waste, wildlife and habitats in one outing!

**Contact Details**
**Email:** eryan@waterfordcouncil.ie  
**Website:** www.waterfordcouncil.ie  
**Address:** Kilbarry, Tramore Road, Waterford

- **Lismore Heritage Centre**
Lismore Heritage Centre holds STEM-based workshops and camps for local children. They also offer Mobile Science Workshops for schools about these super scientific topics: Guts of Digestion, Chemistry Kids, Shocking Science, Crime Scene Investigation and Astronaut University.

**Contact Details**
**Email:** rleddy@lismoreheritage.ie  
**Tel:** 058 54975  
**Website:** www.discoverlismore.com  
**Address:** Lismore, Co Waterford

- **Oceanics Surf School and Marine Education Centre**
The Oceanics primary school programmes encourage children to explore the sea shore environment in a fun and hands-on interactive way. Students can partake in water-based surfing activities and land-based activities including rockpool exploration, beach eco-hike, field studies or beachcombing.

**Contact Details**
**Email:** info@oceanics.ie  
**Tel:** 051 390944  
**Website:** www.oceanics.ie  
**Address:** The Red Cottage, Tramore, Co. Waterford
WESTMEATH

- Dún na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park

Dún na Sí is a unique conservation, education and ecological site. It offers the opportunity for exciting outdoor exploration of the natural environment and our rural Irish traditions. Visit a turlough, experience biodiversity, step inside houses from the past, and get hands-on with natural and human heritage!

Contact Details
Email: info@dunnasi.ie    Tel: 090 648 1183
Website: www.dunnasi.ie    Address: Moate, Co. Westmeath, N37 P271

WEXFORD

- Little Medical School

Little Medical School offers interactive educational outreach workshops that take place in primary schools and in our new centre in Wexford Town. Little Medical School believes a curriculum-based on STEAM will inspire children to pursue a career in medicine. Our workshops are age appropriate and suitable for leaners between the ages of 5 to 12. Workshop example: All about the Heart workshop - In this workshop, children learn how the heart pumps blood around the body. Children use stethoscopes to find their heartbeat, and investigate the effects of exercise on the heartbeat. Additionally, students will be able to identify the different sections of the heart, and learn the proper terminology.

Contact Details
Email: dkenna@littlemedicalschool.com    Tel: 087 449 1262
Website: www.littlemedicalschool.ie
WEXFORD

- **Seal Rescue Ireland**
  Seal Rescue Ireland is a rescue and rehabilitation facility which cares for Ireland’s sick, injured and orphaned seal pups. Through observation, discussion, and hands-on activities students will see the human impact on the natural world and learn how they can do their part to take care of the environment.

  **Contact Details**
  - **Email:** education@sealrescueireland.org  
  - **Tel:** 053 942 4980
  - **Website:** www.sealrescueireland.org  
  - **Address:** Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford

- **Secret Valley Wildlife Park**
  Secret Valley Wildlife Park offers education in a fun and hands-on way through exploration and discovery. All activities are age specific leaving the student with an unforgettable experience. Topics covered include the food chain, wildlife habitats and animal adaptations.

  **Contact Details**
  - **Email:** info@secretvalley.ie  
  - **Tel:** 053 924 4023
  - **Website:** www.secretvalley.ie  
  - **Address:** Coolnacon, Clonroche Co. Wexford

- **Wexford Wildfowl Reserve**
  Wexford Wildfowl Reserve offers activities for primary schools including field studies at the Snipe Field and at Raven Wood Nature Reserve. These include pond dipping, bug hunting and tracking for red squirrel. Students can study our winter visitor, the Greenland White-fronted Goose, learn about birds and watch from our tower.

  **Contact Details**
  - **Email:** wwweducation@chg.gov.ie  
  - **Tel:** 076 100 2660
  - **Website:** www.wexfordwildfowlreserve.ie
  - **Address:** Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Ardcavan, Wexford
WICKLOW

Cool Planet Experience
Cool Planet Experience is the first climate action visitor experience in the world offering an interactive tour, a curriculum linked education programme, outreach events and corporate training. The purpose of Cool Planet is to accelerate planet positive impact, behaviour and new lifestyle choices for everyone. Our mission is to engage, educate and INSPIRE climate action.

Contact Details
Email: info@coolplanet.ie  Tel: 01 518 0197
Website: www.coolplanetexperience.org
Address: Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow

Kippure Estate Education Centre
Kippure Estate Education Centre offers outdoor experiential learning in geography and ecology field studies, team building and outdoor activity. Younger students enjoy themed nature trips on pirates or Celtic warriors where they build, investigate and experiment at a level appropriate to their age.

Contact Details
Email: eco@kippure.com  Tel: 01 458 2889
Website: www.adventurewicklow.com
Address: Kippure Estate, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

National Sealife Centre
Smarter than an Octopus? SEA LIFE Aquarium Bray runs 2 part workshops: 1) Marine based experiments to help gain a greater understanding of our oceans and their inhabitants; 2) Exploration of the aquarium supported by worksheets.

Contact Details
Email: slcbray@merlinentertainments.biz
Tel: 01 286 6939  Website: www.sealife.ie
Address: National SEA LIFE centre, Strand Road, Bray, County Wicklow
SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Programme

The SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Programme (DPSM) is part of Science Foundation Ireland’s Education and Public Engagement Programme, which aims to increase interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) among students, teachers and members of the public. DPSM originated in 2003 with the aim of introducing primary school students to science in a practical, hands-on, enjoyable and interactive way. Since 2010 the programme has been run in conjunction with the European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO) Ireland which uses space to inspire and engage young people in science and technology in the world around them.

The programme offers:

- **SFI Discover Science and Maths Awards**
- **Continuous Professional Development Workshops and Summer Courses for teachers**
- **A Framework for Inquiry Based Science Education**
- **Classroom activities, resources and quarterly e-newsletters**

To find out more about the DPSM programme visit [www.primaryscience.ie](http://www.primaryscience.ie)
The SFI Discover Science and Maths Award

The SFI Discover Science and Maths Award is a unique way for your school to gain recognition for STEM work. Principals tell us that the Award is a great way of involving everyone in STEM in the school. Each year over 600 primary schools across Ireland receive the SFI Discover Science and Maths award recognising their achievements in STEM. There are two levels of Award, so whether you are starting out or have already achieved an Award, there will be one to suit you.

Reported benefits of participating in the Award include:

- An overall increase in school science activities
- Increased engagement with science by students
- Increased awareness of science activities in the school amongst parents
- A stronger sense of team-spirit amongst teachers

Register now at www.primaryscience.ie, where you’ll find full details and lots of resources and support
Members of the SFI Discover Centres Network

Antrim
- W5, Belfast

Armagh
- Armagh Observatory and Planetarium

Clare
- Aillwee Cave and Bird of Prey Centre
- Irish Seed Savers
- Shannon Aviation Museum

Cork
- CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory
- Doneraile Park Education Centre
- Education in Nature
- Fota Wildlife Park
- The Hollies Centre for Practical Sustainability
- The StreamSchool
- Lifetime Lab at Old Cork Waterworks

Donegal
- Glenveagh National Park Education Centre
- LYIT Coding

Dublin
- Airfield Estate
- Brickz 4 Kidz Creativity centre
- DCU Lego Innovation Studio
- Dublin Zoo
- ECO-UNESCO
- EPIC: The Irish Emigration Museum
- Global Action Plan (GAP), Ireland
- Imaginosity
- Irish National Sailing and Powerboat School
- The National Maritime Museum of Ireland
- North Bull Island Interpretive Centre
- The Rediscovery Centre

Galway
- An Gáirdín, Organic and Ecology Centre
- Brigit’s Garden
- Galway Atlantauaria

Kerry
- Crag Cave
- Killarney National Park Education Centre
- Oceanworld Aquarium
- Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre
Kildare
- Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Bog of Allen Nature Centre
- Irish National Stud and Gardens
- Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park

Kilkenny
- Castlecomer Discovery Park
- National Reptile Zoo

Laois
- Laois Outdoor Education

Leitrim
- Leitrim Organic Centre

Limerick
- Ballyhoura Outdoor Classroom, Griston Bog
- Lough Gur Heritage Centre

Longford
- Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre

Mayo
- Museum of Country Life, National Museum of Ireland
- Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park

Offaly
- Birr Castle Gardens and Science Centre
- Clara Bog Visitor Centre

Roscommon
- Arigna Mining Experience

Tipperary
- Cabragh Wetlands
- Cloncannon Biofarm
- Mitchelstown Cave
- WeCreate Fab Lab

Waterford
- Kilbarry Nature Park
- Lismore Heritage Centre
- Oceanics Surf School and Marine Education Centre

Westmeath
- Dún na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park

Wexford
- Little Medical School
- Seal Rescue Ireland
- Secret Valley Wildlife Park
- Wexford Wildfowl Reserve

Wicklow
- Cool Planet Experience
- Kippure Estate Education Centre
- National Sealife Centre
Over 60 Discover Centres offering STEM workshops, school visits and outreach programmes to support STEM teaching and learning.

www.primaryscience.ie