



## Wexford CYPSC Newsletter

27 February 2026

For information on services and supports for children, young people and families see [Wexford CYPSC](#)

For information on parenting supports and programmes, see [Wexford Parents Hub](#) or access on [Facebook](#)



## CONTENTS

### CYPSC Showcase Event

P.: 4-6      Wexford CYPSC Showcase February 10, 2026

### Youth Groups

P.: 7      Orbit Youth Group

P.: 8      Nova Youth Group

### Webinars/Training

P.: 9-10      My Place to Play Upcoming Sessions

P.: 11-12      Community Volunteers Training Programme

### Report

P.: 13-14      ESRI Report

### Survey

P.: 15      National online survey on ELC and SAC available until 12th March

### Garda Youth Awards

P.: 16-17      Launch of County Wexford Garda Youth Awards 2026

### Grant's Scheme

P.: 18      2026 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme Now Open

### Events / Campaigns

P.: 19      Anew Support Services Interactive Workshop - Visual Voices #IWD2026

- P.: 20-23 Wexford Town Library Events
- P.: 23-25 Bunclody Library Events
- P.: 25-27 Enniscorthy Library Events
- P.: 28 New Ross Library Events
- P.: 28 Gorey Library Events
- P.: 29 Ireland Reads 2026: 'Get Lost in a Good Book'

### **Youth Participation**

- P.: 30-31 Call for Abstracts | UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 12th Biennial International Conference | 11-12th June 2026

### **Literacy**

- P.: 32 NALA's new reading, writing and spelling workbooks
- P.: 33-34 Finalist for the Library of the Year at the British Book Awards
- P.: 35 Free Digital Skills Drop-in Session for Seniors
- P.: 36 Online Book Club with Wexford Library Service

## CYPSC SHOWCASE EVENT

### ► Wexford CYPSC Showcase February 10, 2026

Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee hosted a showcase event on Tuesday 10 February in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The event provided Sub Groups with the opportunity to showcase some of their projects.



Proceedings were opened by Greg Mullan, Wexford CYPSC Chairperson who welcomed everyone and paid tribute to the vast amount of work being done to improve outcomes for children and young people in Co. Wexford.

Sheila Barrett, Wexford CYPSC Co-ordinator referenced the current [Wexford Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2027](#).

There were several informative presentations during the morning. Nicola Collins, Sports Active Local Sports Partnership presented the "Girls Get Active" project. This project targets teenage girls with the aim of increasing their levels of physical activity. This project was funded by the CYPSC Healthy Ireland Fund.



Avril O'Sullivan, Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS) presented on the "Disability Pathways Resource". This resource is for parents of children and young people under 18 years of age. It aims to provide information to parents in accessible formats. The resource will be launched soon and will be available in several formats. The resource was also funded under the CYPSC Healthy Ireland Fund.

Alison O'Brien, Tusla gave an overview of the vast number of supports being provided to children and young people in international accommodation, under the CYPSC International Protection Fund. Juliette Zmorrod from the [Doulab](#) also spoke about the contemporary circus and dance project delivered to two groups of young people in international accommodation in late 2025.



The Pre-Adolescent Traveller Holistic Programme ([PATH](#)) was presented by Kieran Donohoe and Robbie Sludds from FDYS. They outlined how this programme was recently evaluated. The findings demonstrated that participation in the programme has had a positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of young people from the Traveller and Roma communities and young people experiencing social exclusion.



Ger O'Connor (Bernardos) and Siobhán Cummins (Wexford County Childcare Committee) gave a presentation on the work of the EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) Implementation Group. Following the publication of the [Wexford EBSA Pack](#), a number of parent workshops and train the trainer courses have been delivered by this group.





Finally, Ger O'Connor (Barnardos) gave an overview of the [Wexford Parents Hub Video project](#). Developed with funding from the Parent Awareness Fund, a set of seven short videos showcase the supports available for parents in Co. Wexford.

The event was closed by Greg Mullan who thanked everyone for their participation in the event and their ongoing support for the CYPSC initiative in Co. Wexford.



**YOUTH GROUPS**

► **Orbit Youth Group**



# **ORBIT YOUTH GROUP**

A large, stylized black graphic of a star or comet with a long, curved tail, positioned to the right of the main title.

**A WEEKLY SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH  
AND ALLIES AGED 14-18  
IN WEXFORD TOWN**

**CONTACT DYLAN FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**DYLAN.HENNESSY@FDYS.IE  
083 202 2713**





# NOVA YOUTH GROUP



**A WEEKLY SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH  
AND ALLIES AGED 14-18  
IN ENNISCORTHY TOWN**

**CONTACT DYLAN FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**DYLAN.HENNESSY@FDYS.IE  
083 202 2713**



## WEBINARS/TRAINING

### ► My Place to Play Upcoming Sessions



We are delighted to announce we are able to provide a further 2 briefing sessions for My Place To Play on Friday February 27<sup>th</sup> and Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>.

MPTP is aimed at professionals working with families who have babies and toddlers living in emergency accommodation and cramped living conditions. There are two main parts of the programme;

a) Briefing sessions for professionals; A once off 90 minute session introducing MPTP concepts, materials, and guidance on how to support families using them.

b) Ordering packs; to provide families with the MPTP play mat and materials which promote language development, communication and play. The packs enable parents to create a dedicated space or time for play with their young children and support their development.

#### **Expectations of Professionals taking part in the Programme:**

- o Engage in online information session before distributing the materials to the families, thereby ensuring that they have:

Knowledge and practical skills around the importance of play in physical development

Skills to promote parental engagement in their baby's learning through the packs

Familiar with the materials and benefits of each toy.

- o Talk the families through the materials highlighting the use and benefits of each toy.
- o Check back in with the family after two weeks to assess the benefits of the materials for the children involved and see if additional support is needed
- o Complete an online survey and encourage the parent to do so if possible for them.

### How can you register to take part?

Here are the dates of the two briefing sessions planned.

Month	Date	Time	Zoom link to register
February	Friday 27th	10.30am- 12pm	<a href="#">Meeting Registration - Zoom</a>
March	Monday 9th	2pm-3.30pm	<a href="#">Meeting Registration - Zoom</a>

If you are working with families living in emergency accommodation, including International Protection, MPTP may be a good fit for your organisation and families you are working with.

If you have any questions please direct them to [eli@ncirl.ie](mailto:eli@ncirl.ie).

## ► Community Volunteers Training Programme



Wexford County Council Community Section, through the Sláintecare Health Communities Programme, is delighted to invite you to take part in a **Community Volunteers Training Programme** taking place in Enniscorthy this spring.

This programme is aimed at volunteers involved in community groups, residents' associations and other local organisations who want practical skills to help their group run well, stay compliant and keep people engaged.

📍 Venue: Temple Shannon Community Centre, Enniscorthy

🕒 Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

📅 Dates:

- \* Tuesday 3rd March
- \* Tuesday 10th March
- \* Wednesday 18th March (due to St. Patrick's Day)
- \* Tuesday 25th March

The training will be delivered by experienced facilitator, Ann Gallagher in a very informal and practical way. Sessions will include real-life examples, group discussion and scenario-based learning, making it relevant and useful for anyone involved in running or supporting a community group.

Training will cover:

- \* Effective leadership in the community
- \* How to get and keep volunteers
- \* How to get things done (meetings, agendas, action planning)

- \* Managing communication, change and conflict
- \* An overview of community development

There will also be a great opportunity to meet and link in with volunteers from other local groups, share experiences and build local connections.

Further details of the course and the facilitator are attached.

This training is ideal for:

- ✓ Residents' association members
- ✓ Community group volunteers
- ✓ Committee members
- ✓ Anyone involved in organising or supporting local activities

Places are limited, so early booking is recommended. (First come first served).

To register your interest or to book a place, please reply to Ann Marie Laffan at [annmarie.laffan@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:annmarie.laffan@wexfordcoco.ie) with:

Your Name

Your Group

Your Email:

Your phone number

We would be delighted to see you there and to support you in your important work in your community.

If you know of other members of your group or other organisations that would like to attend please share this with them.

## REPORT

### ► ESRI Report

New research, published by the ESRI and produced in partnership with Tusla Education Support Service (TESS), uses administrative data to look at patterns of non-attendance by type of school for 2022/23 and 2023/24. Two measures are used: the average number of days lost per student over the school year, and the proportion of students who have chronic levels of absenteeism (that is, who miss 20 or more days in the school year). Both measures have increased since the pandemic and show little sign of improvement between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

#### Key findings:

##### How prevalent is absence in primary schools?

- The findings show that school absence is more prevalent in primary schools serving disadvantaged communities. Schools in the DEIS programme, particularly Urban Band 1 schools (with the most disadvantaged profile), have higher rates of absenteeism than non-DEIS schools. In 2023/24, 35 per cent of students in Urban Band 1 schools missed 20 or more days of school compared with 17 per cent in non-DEIS schools.
- The location of the school also makes a difference, with schools in areas with higher levels of socioeconomic deprivation having worse attendance. Using the HP Pobal Index of area-level deprivation, schools in affluent areas have the lowest level of chronic absence, at 16 per cent, with schools in disadvantaged areas having the highest rates, at 27 per cent.
- Special schools also have very high rates of school absence, with 31 per cent of students missing 20 or more days of school. In 2023/24, special schools reported a 16 percentage point higher proportion of chronic absence than mainstream non-DEIS schools.
- No significant difference is found between single-sex and coeducational primary schools in their levels of absence.
- Higher levels of absence are found in multi-denominational schools than in Catholic or minority faith schools.
- Irish-medium schools have lower levels of absence than English-medium schools.
- It is not clear from the available data whether these patterns reflect differences between these school types in their student profile or whether they relate to differences in school practices and processes.
- Small primary schools are found to have better attendance levels on average.

[Click here for full report](#)

ESRI  
RESEARCH SERIES

Number 219, January 2026



AN INSTITUTE  
UM THAIGHDE  
EACNAMÁIÓCHTA  
AGUS SÓisialta  
ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# School-level patterns of non-attendance, 2022/23 and 2023/24

ANNA MOYA PONCE, EMER SMYTH AND MERIKE DARMODY



## SURVEY

### ► National online survey on ELC and SAC available until 12th March



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais  
agus Comhionannais  
Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality

We wish to share information with you relating to a National online survey of ELC and SAC settings currently being conducted by the DCDE. We urge you to share this information within your networks.

On 4 February Minister Foley launched an online survey as part of the [National Conversation – the First 5 Years and School-Age Childcare](#). The survey can be accessed via gov.ie [here](#). It will run until March 12<sup>th</sup>.

This survey looks at the key priorities for early learning and care, school-age childcare and childminding, including what should change or stay the same, and how to make these settings better for babies, young children, and young people. This will form part of a broader public consultation process on the future of ELC and SAC being undertaken by the DCDE, as well as informing the developing of Phase 2 of the *Shaping the Future Action Plan* and the successor to the *First 5 Strategy*.

We want to hear from parents, early years educators, school age childcare practitioners, childminders, providers, and all those interested in the future of early learning and care and school age childcare. This National Conversation represents a rare opportunity to reshape the future of education, including early years education, in our country, and we want to ensure that as many voices as possible are included.

Thank you

Kind regards

The Parenting Support Policy Unit

## GARDA YOUTH AWARDS

### ► Launch of County Wexford Garda Youth Awards 2026



### Launch of Wexford Garda Youth Awards 2026

An Garda Síochána in Wexford in association with Wexford County Council are delighted to launch the Annual Wexford Garda Youth Awards for 2026.

The launch of these annual awards is to acknowledge the achievements of young people who are making a difference in their own lives and in their communities within the Wexford Garda Division.

They also acknowledge the endeavours of young people who have faced and overcome challenges in their lives.

The awards will be presented in four categories:

- **Individual Award** - Making a positive contribution to their community, making it a better place to live.
- **Group Award** - Group of two or more, making a positive contribution to their community, making it a better place to live.
- **Special Achievement Award** - Overcome difficult circumstances, defied all the odds and whose commitment deserves recognition.
- **Community Safety Award** - Through a crime prevention or safety initiative/innovation, have made their community a safer place to live.

Anyone can nominate a young person between the age of 13 and 21 years for an award. Nominations will be completed through an online process; this is available through the following link:

[Garda Youth Awards 2026 | Wexford County Council](#)

Closing date for nominations will be **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 4.00pm.**

If anyone requires further information, they can contact the Superintendent's Office at [WW.WexfordSouth.CE@Garda.ie](mailto:WW.WexfordSouth.CE@Garda.ie), 053 9165280 or through their local Garda Station.

## GRANT'S SCHEME

### ► 2026 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme Now Open

The 2026 Grants Programme is now open, and organisations are invited to apply.



The **'Children's Promise' Grants Programme**, Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF), is a collaboration with [Community Foundation Ireland](#) (CFI) and the [Sunflower Charitable Foundation](#) (SCF), and aims to support organisations working with young children and their families in areas of high socio-economic need, who may not reach their potential due to the corrosive impact of poverty.

The 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme is a promise from KHF to provide financial and other supports to selected organisations, to support and develop the potential of the children engaged with the organisations.

The Programme will build on the powerful work taking place at community-level to address child poverty with funding of up to €1,500,000 in financial and non-financial supports over its duration 2026-30.

In the first three years of the 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme (2023 – 2025), **54 projects were supported** within organisations across Ireland based in communities most affected by social inequality. These organisations work with a wide range of complex issues, but all have a common objective: ***to harness the childhood potential in communities with high socio-economic need, through supports for pregnant mothers, young children, and their families.***

**For further information and to apply please visit our website [here](#)**

**The closing date for all applications is 19 March 2026 at 1pm.**

**All queries should be made by email to [info@khf.ie](mailto:info@khf.ie)**



## EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

### ► Anew Support Services Interactive Workshop - Visual Voices #IWD2026



Anew would like to invite you for an engaging interactive event to mark International Women's Day, that exhibits the collective Visual Voices of women with lived experiences of homelessness. The collective Visual Voices have been produced by women with lived experiences of homelessness across seven European countries as part of an Erasmus+ project entitled Women's Voices. The Visual Voices feature photographs and reflections which explore women's lived experiences of safety and lack of safety, providing a curriculum for learning about responding to women's safety needs.

The event aims to raise awareness of the gender-specific dimensions to women's homelessness and encourage participants to think critically about the lived realities of safety/lack of safety as experienced by women in homelessness. A key objective is to promote critical dialogue and action towards ensuring more gender-responsive homelessness and related services for women in Ireland.

The event also introduces the model of support offered by Anew as an example of how we aim to meet the safety and related needs of pregnant women and new mothers experiencing homelessness.

It will be on 12<sup>th</sup> March in the Ashling Hotel from 11am to 3pm.

The Eventbrite link is shown below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1982894176861?aff=oddtcreator>

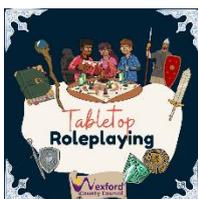
## ► Wexford Town Library Events



**LEGO Free Play every Saturday from 11:00am - 3:00pm. Suitable for ages 5yrs+**  
LEGO Free Play tables available on our Children's floor area from 11am to 3pm. Free to attend. LEGO will be made available for children and families to build their very own designs. Get Creative. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. No booking required.



**Story Time every Saturday, 11.00am-11:30am, Suitable for children aged 3–7 years.**  
Join us for Story Time in Wexford Library every Saturday morning. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. **No booking required.**



**Tabletop Roleplaying Club: Dungeons & Dragons, Tuesday, 3 March, 6:30pm - 8:30pm.**

Are you ready to embark on an epic adventure? 🎲 🐉 Well then, join us at Wexford Library for tabletop role-playing gaming and unleash your imagination. The sessions will take place the second Tuesday of every month from 6.30-8.30 pm. **Booking is essential.**

**Suitable for ages 12–17 years.**



### **Cat Hogan at Wexford Library, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, 11.30-1pm**

To celebrate Ireland Reads Day, join us in Wexford Library for a cuppa and a chat about the authors and books you like to read & recommend to family, friends...or friendly strangers you meet at the bus stop!

Author Cat Hogan will chair this relaxed discussion and share some of her own Recommended Reads with us.

Come celebrate reading, community, and great conversation at Wexford Library.  
Let's make Ireland Reads a day to remember!

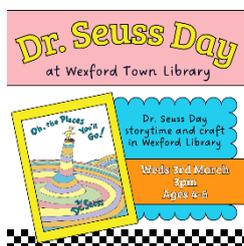
Cat Hogan is an award-nominated Irish novelist and screenwriter from County Wexford. She is the author of the psychological thrillers *They All Fall Down* (2016) and *There Was A Crooked Man* (2017), the latter shortlisted for the Bord Gáis Energy Crime Fiction of the Year.

Cat is currently working on her third novel, and her first two books are also in development for television.

Born into a family of book lovers on the Wexford coast, Cat credits her upbringing for her passion for storytelling, the sea, and the mysteries that inspire her fiction. When she is not conjuring up imaginary friends and mad men, she teaches Creative Writing, Mental Health programs to young teenagers and adults, and tutors in Adult Literacy and Further Education with the Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board.

This event is Open to all.

You don't have to be a library member to attend **but...** it is the best place to pick up a good read...Probably!



### **Dr. Seuss Storytime and Craft Session, Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3-4pm**

The more that you read the more things you will know The more that you learn the more places you'll go!

Join us at Wexford library for a wacky, wonderful and wildly imaginative Dr Seuss themed event. Step into a world of rhymes, giggles and fantastical tales as we celebrate the timeless stories of Dr Seuss.

So, hop like a Yopp to Wexford library on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at 3pm for some serious Seussical shenanigans!

Suitable for ages 4-6

Booking is essential. Please book for child only.

Please note that children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.

Should you require additional supports to attend this event please contact Wexford Library 053 919 6760 or email [wexfordlibrary@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:wexfordlibrary@wexfordcoco.ie).

### **Sensory Hour, Every Saturday from 4.00pm-5.00pm.**

Sensory Hour supports library users who have sensory, extra, and/or additional needs. It offers a calm and sensory family friendly environment.



### **Rhyme Time, every Wednesday, 11.00am-11:30am. Suitable for children aged 0–3 years.**

These fun, free and interactive Rhyme Time sessions are perfect for babies and toddlers. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. No booking required.



### **Book Clinic for Young Readers, Saturday, 28 February, 2:00pm - 3:30pm.**

Looking for the perfect book for Ireland Reads day? Don't worry, we're here to help! Drop in to our book clinic for young readers to get some inspiration for your next read. No need to book, just drop in on the day. Perfect for young readers aged around 6-11 years. Please note that children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.

**All events are FREE.** Wexford Public Libraries App.

Access your library 24/7. Online resources include eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers, eComics & Graphic Novels, music, take eLearning or language courses, business, education, and research databases and more. **Library membership is free.**

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>

## ► Bunclody Library Events



### **Rhymetime for ages 0 to 5 years - every Wednesday at 11.15am**

Join us for Rhymetime every Wednesday when we will have lots of fun nursery rhymes and stories suitable for babies and toddlers followed by a Duplo play session. No booking required.



### **Sensory Friendly Hour**

**Every Saturday from 4.00 to 5.00pm**, Sensory Friendly hour will be observed in Bunclody Library.

We encourage you to come along and relax in the calm environment of the library. **No booking required.** All welcome!

### **Sensory Basket**

A sensory basket containing various sensory toys/books available for children to use while visiting the library. Just ask at the desk.



### **Saturday Storytime every Saturday at 11am**

Join us every Saturday morning at 11am for stories and songs for ages 3-7 years. No need to book - all welcome!



### **Just Read! Junior Book Club – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 3.30 to 4.00pm**

Join Shane for our Just Read! Junior Book Club for ages 9-12 years. If you are interested in joining the book club, please telephone the library on 053 9375466.



### **Young Adult Book Club – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 4.15 to 4.45pm**

Join us for this month's YA book club! New members are always welcome.



### **An introduction to Micro:Bits and VR Headsets for 9 to 12 year olds - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30 to 3.30pm**

Join us to learn about Micro:Bits and how to create a simple game programme! We are also excited to introduce our VR Headsets - explore the ocean, get up close to wild animals and much more. This pop-up event is suitable for **ages 9+**. All welcome, no booking required.



### **Baby Playtime for 0 to 2 year olds - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 11.00am to 12.00pm**

Join us for our baby sensory playtime morning. We will provide lots of fun sensory toys and story sacks. Come along and meet other parents and babies in a comfy environment! No booking required.

## ► **Enniscorthy Library Events**



### **Interactive Story Time at Enniscorthy Library**

Join us in Enniscorthy Library every Saturday at 11am for our Interactive Story Time! Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

Through the magic of storytelling, children are transported to far-off lands, introduced to diverse characters, and exposed to a rich tapestry of language, all while developing fundamental literacy skills such as vocabulary acquisition, comprehension, and phonological awareness. **All welcome and no booking required.**

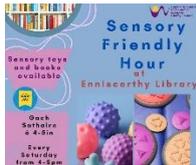


### **LEGO Free Play at Enniscorthy Library - every Saturday 11.30am-5pm.**

Enniscorthy Library invites you and your family to join us for a session of LEGO Free Play, LEGO will be made available for children and families to build their very own designs. This session is suitable for ages 5+.

**Please note we're closed for lunch from 1pm-2pm.**

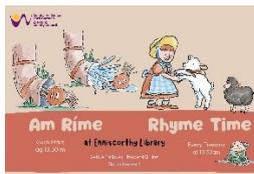
**No Booking Required**



### **Sensory Friendly Hour at Enniscorthy Library - Every Saturday from 4-5pm**

Sensory Friendly Hour will be observed in Enniscorthy Library.

We encourage you to come along and relax in the calm environment of the library. No booking required. All welcome!



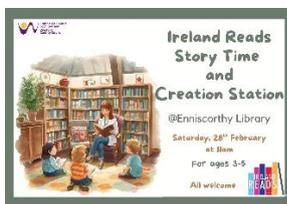
### **Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time at Enniscorthy Library - every Tuesday at 10.30am**

Join us in Enniscorthy Library for songs, stories and rhymes!

Perfect for up to 3 years old but fun for everyone!

Through rhymes children naturally learn essential skills for communicating such as turn-taking and joining in.

**All welcome and no booking required.**



### **Ireland Reads Story Time and Creation Station, Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @11am**

Join us in Enniscorthy Library for a special Ireland Reads Story Time and Creation Station.

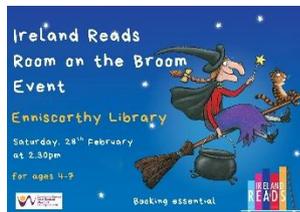
Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

Throughout February and especially on Ireland Reads Day, February 28th, we're calling on people across Ireland to get lost in a good book. It doesn't matter what you read, where you read or how well you read, as long as you read.

Because taking time to relax and do things you enjoy is important and reading is good for you. It relaxes your body by lowering your heart rate and easing the tension in your muscles. Studies have even shown that reading boosts your mental health by reducing stress by up to 68%. Ireland Reads is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote reading, literacy and the arts.

All you have do is sit down for a read, for as long or as short a time as you can, and lose yourself in an adventure, a thriller, a romance, a comedy or all of the above.

**All welcome and no booking required.**



**Ireland Reads Room on the Broom Event, Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @2.30pm**

Join us for a magical Ireland Reads celebration inspired by Julia Donaldson's book Room on the Broom. We'll be reading the beloved story together, then we'll set off on an exciting library scavenger hunt. Afterward, participants will create their very own wand with a fun craft activity and WOOSH we'll wrap the event with a movie screening. This event is suitable for children aged 4-7.

Throughout February and especially on Ireland Reads Day, February 28th, we're calling on people across Ireland to get lost in a good book. It doesn't matter what you read, where you read or how well you read, as long as you read.

Because taking time to relax and do things you enjoy is important and reading is good for you. It relaxes your body by lowering your heart rate and easing the tension in your muscles. Studies have even shown that reading boosts your mental health by reducing stress by up to 68%.

Ireland Reads is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote reading, literacy and the arts.

All you have do is sit down for a read, for as long or as short a time as you can, and lose yourself in an adventure, a thriller, a romance, a comedy or all of the above.

Booking essential.

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4508279>

## ► New Ross Library Events



### **New Ross Library Rhymetime – Every Thursday, 11-11:30am**

Join us in New Ross Library every Thursday at 11.00am for a fun-packed session with lots of stories, rhymes and songs!

**Booking for this event is no longer required.** A parent or guardian must stay for the duration of the event.

For more info or to book events, please telephone 051 421877 or book online at [wexfordcoco.libcal.com](http://wexfordcoco.libcal.com).

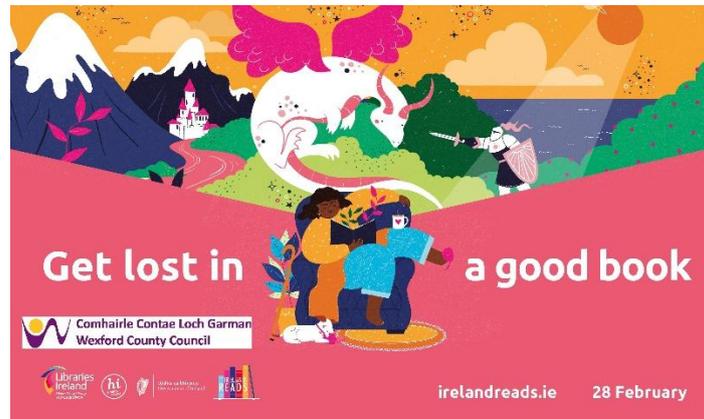
## ► Gorey Library Events

Children's Storytime: Every Tuesday at 11am  
Baby Rhyme Time: Every Thursday at 10:30am  
LEGO Freeplay: Every Saturday from 10:30- 12:30  
Saturday Sensory Hour: Every Saturday at 4pm  
YA Unreal Bookclub: Thursday 19th at 4:30pm



Gorey Book Clinic for children  
Ireland Reads Day. Saturday 28th February from 10:30am

## ► Ireland Reads 2026: ‘Get Lost in a Good Book’



Ireland Reads 2026 takes place on Saturday, 28 February. This national campaign, led by Libraries Ireland as part of Healthy Ireland, encourages everyone to “Get Lost in a Good Book.”

Ireland Reads is the national campaign to promote reading as a beneficial, accessible, and enjoyable activity for all, supporting wellbeing, sparking creativity, and connecting people. It is a campaign that highlights the role of libraries in supporting literacy, wellbeing, and community connection.

Libraries across Ireland will promote their services, host events and share book recommendations to help people rediscover the joy of reading.

Our library will play a key role in promoting reading as a powerful tool for wellbeing, creativity, and connection.

Here’s how you can help:

- Follow our social media and online activity and share our campaign messaging on your social media channels using #IrelandReads and #TellMeToGetLost.
- Highlight our events and book recommendations in branch and online.
- Encourage people to visit the local library as part of the Ireland Reads campaign.
- Participating in Ireland Reads events.

For those of you interested in actively promoting the campaign, bilingual social media video assets with template messaging are available.

Through Ireland Reads, we promote the benefits of reading and library services, encouraging library visits, people to take the opportunity to borrow reading material from a library, and to engage with library programmes. The campaign aims to increase awareness and visibility of our librarians, people in our communities who are friendly, approachable and knowledgeable in providing reading recommendations.

Thank you for helping us make Ireland Reads 2026 a success!

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION

► **Call for Abstracts | UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 12th Biennial International Conference | 11-12th June 2026**



## Call for Abstracts

**🕒 Final days to submit — don't miss the abstract deadline on March 6th at 5:00pm!**

## Shifting Power: New Frontiers in Youth Participation

**Follow the conversation at [#newfrontiersyouthparticipation](#)**

Across research, policy and practice, youth participation in decision-making is widely accepted as a core principle. While participatory and co-production mechanisms are in place, many have been criticised as consultative or sometimes tokenistic in nature. The extent to which young people are fully engaged as partners remains a challenge. In response to a call from UNESCO (2023) member states were tasked to, “take existing youth arrangements to the next level, create new opportunities and arrangements where they do not yet exist and ensure that youth participation is effectively resourced”. A central focus of this conference will be on power and influence, to explore the ways in which meaningful youth engagement is understood, actioned and evidenced. Participants will be invited to chart the next steps in developing pathways for impact in their everyday practice, based on genuine power-sharing with young people.

In practice, youth participation is supported through a range of structures, processes and methods across formal and informal settings including youth work, education, child protection and welfare and youth justice services among others. Across these settings, areas for exploration include context-specific approaches (e.g. working with

different population groups); systems and institutional factors and types of participation models (e.g. co-produced or youth-led). As a future facing conference, it will identify gaps and challenges in existing participatory strategies and methodologies and identify, highlight and promote sustainable practices. Key insights and participant perspectives from the conference will be disseminated and utilised to inform future direct engagement with policymakers, practitioners and other key audiences.

Proposals are now welcome from delegates to present their work at the conference parallel sessions in presentation, poster or an interactive workshop format. Abstracts are invited from the practice, policy, research and academic communities in relation to the conference themes:

- Adulthood, power imbalances and resistance to youth participation.
- Barriers to participation (incl. structural, cultural, language and other challenges).
- Benefits and impact of meaningful youth participation.
- Ethical issues (incl. the risk of harm).
- The role of adult allies.
- Equity (incl. knowledge equity), access and inclusion.
- Proven methodologies and approaches to measuring youth participation.

The active participation of young people in presenting your work is encouraged, where appropriate. Although we are calling for contributions under these sub-themes, other relevant topics are welcome, but all submissions must reflect the overarching theme of the conference. Abstracts must be submitted by March 6th, 2026, and will only be accepted if completed using the [template](#) provided. Further details on presentation types and the time allocated can be found on the submission template.

Abstracts will undergo a peer-reviewed process with successful applicants notified by **April 1st, 2026**. Please note that all presenters are required to register for their attendance at the conference.

**Submit your abstract [here](#).**

**For regular updates and registration visit the [conference website](#).**

#### **Important Dates:**

- Deadline Abstract Submission: March 6th, 2026, at 5pm
- Notification of Abstract Acceptance: April 1st, 2026
- End of registration at a reduced fee: April 30th, 2026

## LITERACY

### ► NALA's new reading, writing and spelling workbooks



**wwetb**  
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman  
Waterford and Wexford  
Education and Training Board



**Adult  
Literacy  
for Life**

### NALA's new reading, writing and spelling workbooks

- If you are working with adults who have unmet literacy or English language needs, you may find these resources useful.

NALA has four new Level 1 to 2 literacy workbooks for Adult literacy and ESOL learners:

- [Health and well-being - NALA](#)
- [Clothes and the weather - NALA](#)
- [Places in the town - NALA](#)
- [Free time activities - NALA](#)

The workbooks are for any adult who wants to improve their reading and writing skills at Level 1 to 2.

You can [order copies of the workbooks for free](#) or you can [download PDF versions](#) from our website.

You can learn new words and practice how to use them in sentences. Exercises in the workbooks help you practice reading, writing, and spelling skills. You can use the workbooks on their own or with the support of a tutor.

Please visit the [Adult Literacy for Life Workplace Calendar Resource here](#).

► **Finalist for the Library of the Year at the British Book Awards**



We are delighted to share some wonderful news.

The Wexford Adult Reading Circles for emergent readers has been selected as an **Island of Ireland Regional & Country Finalist for the Library of the Year**, at the British Book Awards.



The adult reading circles are currently running in Gorey, Wexford Town and New Ross providing welcoming spaces for emergent readers and for adults whose first language is not English to build confidence and enjoy reading together.

This initiative was developed through **strong collaboration between Wexford Library, WWETB / Adult Literacy for Life (ALL), and the members of the Waterford Wexford Regional Adult Literacy Coalition**, reflecting a shared commitment to supporting adult literacy in our communities.

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who has helped with the development and delivery of this initiative. Your work is making a real difference.

Please **continue to promote the reading circles** and encourage clients, service users, friends and family members who may benefit from taking part. Further details below.

## Wexford Library Service Adult Reading Circles



### Are you new to reading?

Join one of our adult reading circles this February

#### Wexford Library Adult Reading Circle

Is English your first language?  
Join Emilie to improve your confidence.

**When:** First and third Tuesdays of the month  
**Time:** 7pm to 8pm  
**Phone:** Emilie at 053 919 6760



#### Wexford Library Read and Chat Group

Join Emilie for the Read and Chat group where you will improve your English reading and speaking skills.

**When:** Second and last Tuesdays of the month  
**Time:** 7pm to 8pm  
**Phone:** Emilie at 053 919 6760



Free booking to all Adult Reading Circles at:  
<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>



## Wexford Library Service Adult Reading Circles



### Are you new to reading?

Join one of our adult reading circles this February

#### Gorey Library Short Story Reading Club

Join Mary to find the joy of reading.

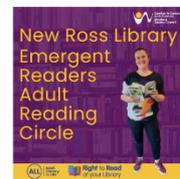
**When:** Third Tuesday of every month  
**Time:** 7pm to 8pm  
**Phone:** Mary at 053 948 3820



#### New Ross Library Emergent Readers Adult Reading Circle:

Join Lucija and start reading together. Perfect English not needed.

**When:** Second and fourth Thursdays of every month  
**Time:** 3pm to 4pm  
**Phone:** Lucija at 051 421 877



Free booking to all Adult Reading Circles at:  
<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>



## ► Free Digital Skills Drop-in Session for Seniors



<b>Where:</b>	<b>Carrickphierish Library, Gracedieu</b>
<b>When:</b>	<b>starting Wednesday, 25 February 2026</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>10 am to 1 pm</b>

Trained volunteers from South East Technological University will be available to help you use your smartphone or device with confidence and stay connected.

Find out more about

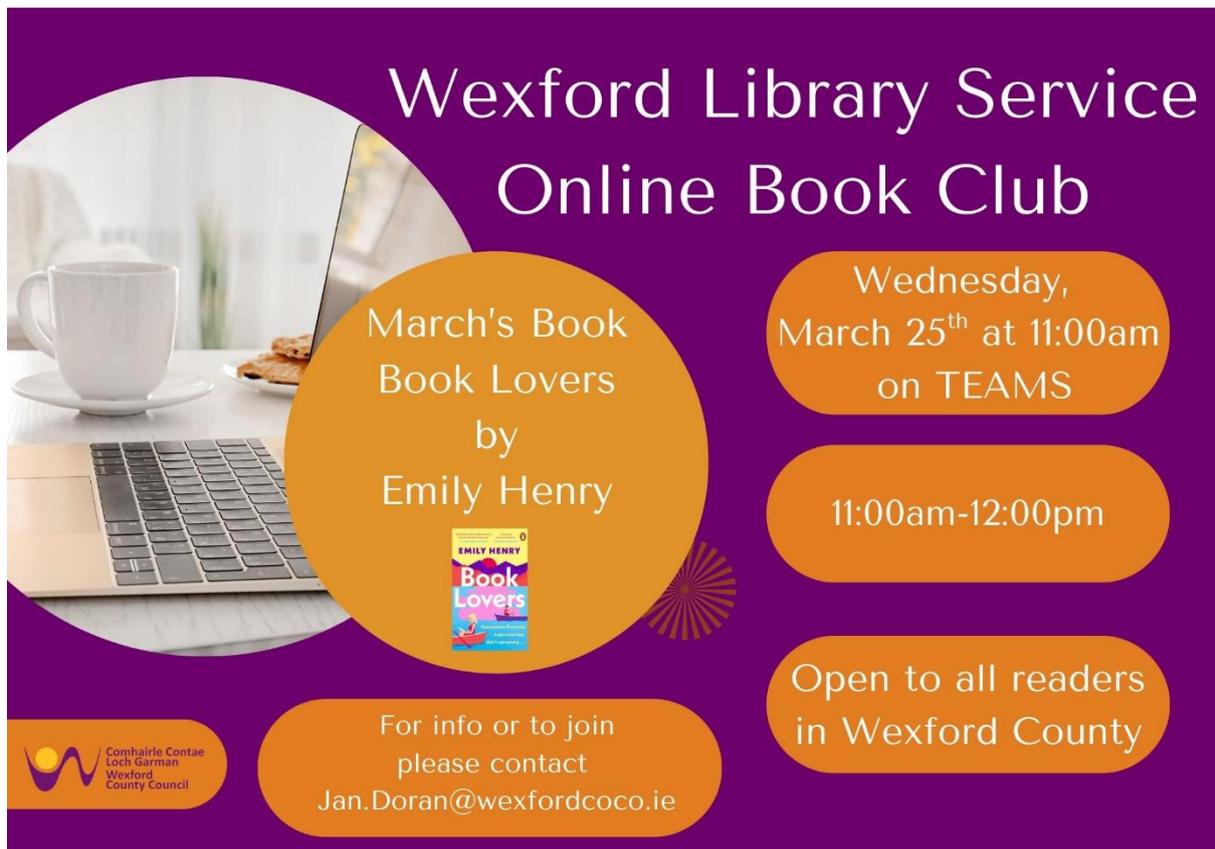
- using your smartphone, tablet, or laptop
- shopping online,
- using WhatsApp and social media.

Just bring your device — no sign-up required.

## ► Online Book Club with Wexford Library Service

### Wexford Library Service Online Book Club

<b>When</b>	Wednesday, 25 March 2026 Last Wednesday of each month
<b>Time</b>	11 am to 12 pm
<b>Where</b>	on Microsoft Teams
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:jan.doran@wexfordcoco.ie">jan.doran@wexfordcoco.ie</a>



# Wexford Library Service Online Book Club

March's Book  
Book Lovers  
by  
Emily Henry



Wednesday,  
March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am  
on TEAMS

11:00am-12:00pm

Open to all readers  
in Wexford County

For info or to join  
please contact  
[Jan.Doran@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:Jan.Doran@wexfordcoco.ie)



Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council