

Children's Books Ireland

Children's Books Ireland (CBI) is the national children's book organisation of Ireland. The organisation was formed in 1997 through the merger of the Children's Literature Association of Ireland and the Irish Children's Book Trust. CBI's vision is an Ireland in which books are a part of every child's life and where meaningful engagement with books is supported by passionate and informed adults in families, schools, libraries and communities all across the country. CBI's mission is to make books a part of every child's life. CBI champions and celebrates the importance of Irish authors and illustrators and it works in partnership with the people and organisations that seek to enhance children's lives through books.

This initiative, under the auspices of the North South Educational Underachievement Working Group, is to organise a number of activities during Children's Book Week which include a joint Ministerial event and activities in various schools. Joint funding is provided by the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Education Northern Ireland.

Grant of €5,800 allocated by DES in 2015

Maths Week Ireland

Maths Week Ireland was established in 2006 to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of mathematics throughout the island of Ireland and to seek to foster co-operation between groups promoting mathematics through mutual exchange. It has grown year on year to become the biggest festival of its kind in the world with an estimate of over 270,000 participants. Its main annual events are Engineering Week, Bealtaine Festival of Outdoor Science, Science Week and Maths Week and the Robert Boyle Summer School. It also participates at many other festivals around Ireland and abroad and has one of the busiest stands at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition each year.

It is co-ordinated by CALMAST (The Centre for the Advancement of Learning Maths Science and Technology) which is a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) outreach centre based in Waterford Institute of Technology. Joint funding is provided by the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Education Northern Ireland.

Grant of €100,000 allocated by DES for 2016

The Pushkin Trust

The Pushkin Trust was initiated in Ireland in 1987 by the Duchess of Abercorn with assistance from the Western Education and Library Board in Northern Ireland and the Department of Education and Skills.

The project's main objectives are to provide opportunities for children and adults on the island of Ireland to nurture their creative voices through the medium of the arts and the natural environment and to enhance the peace and reconciliation process through the involvement and ongoing networking of the participants and their schools on the various programmes. Joint funding is provided by the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Education Northern Ireland.

Grant of €27,000 allocated by DES for 2016

Standing Conference on Teacher Education North/South (SCoTENS)

SCoTENS is a network of colleges of education, university education departments, teaching councils, curriculum councils, education trade unions and education centres on the island of Ireland with a responsibility for and interest in teacher education. It has been involved in supporting a wide range of research, conference and exchange projects since it was founded in 2003. SCoTENS also sponsors the North/South Student Teacher Exchange project, which brings together student teachers from Dublin and Belfast to do a key part of their assessed teaching practice in each other's schools. Joint funding is provided by the Department of Education and Skills and the Departments for Education and Employment & Learning in Northern Ireland.

Grant of €30,000 allocated by DES in 2016

Cinemagic

Established in 1989, Cinemagic hosts an annual film festival aimed at young people aged between 4 and 25 years old. Hosted in Belfast since its inception the organisers have also hosted a festival in Dublin since 2008.

The goal of the festival is to entertain, educate and broaden understanding and awareness of the film, television and related media industries among young people and broadening access to a wide range of moving image material both locally, nationally and internationally". Cinemagic also state that its motivation is a desire to involve cross community, cross-border schools, youth groups and young people in the project and to enable young people to break down social barriers by learning more about the processes that are involved in working towards reconciliation.

Grant of €80,000 allocated by DES in 2016

Glór na nGael

The Glór na nGael competition, founded in 1960 and operating on a cross-border basis since 1961, is non-political and non-sectarian and seeks to strengthen and expand people's ability to use the Irish language in every sphere of life.

In 2006 a pilot project expanded Glór na nGael into the third level education sector on an all-Ireland basis.

It is intended that individuals and groups from different backgrounds will be engaged on both a formal and non-formal basis and a strong emphasis will be placed on the dual concepts of reconciliation and cross border co-operation as central themes of the competition.

Grant of €16,500 allocated by DES for 2016

Universities Ireland

Universities Ireland (UI) was founded in 2003 by the nine university presidents on the island of Ireland to promote and develop cooperation between their institutions (the Open University became its 10th member in 2011). Since its founding, UI has engaged in a wide range of activities of mutual interest and benefit including work on the promotion of Irish universities abroad; awarding of joint degrees and transfer arrangements between universities; and higher education policy. Joint funding is provided by the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Education Northern Ireland.

Grant of €30,000 allocated by DES for 2016

Centre for Cross Border Studies

The Centre for Cross Border Studies, based in Armagh and Dublin, was established in 1999. The Centre researches and develops co-operation across the Irish border in a wide range of practical areas, notably education, health, the economy, ICT and citizens' information and works with similar cross-border regional bodies in other parts of Europe.

The Centre has a specific and unique role in contributing to the increased social, economic and territorial cohesion of the island of Ireland through: promoting and improving the quality of cross-border cooperation between public bodies, business and civil society; improving the capacity of people involved in social and economic development of the island to engage in mutually beneficial cross-border cooperation; and addressing information gaps and other barriers that constrain

cross-border mobility and cross-border cooperation through research and provision of resources, tools and other practical support.

Grant of €180,000 allocated by DES for 2016

George Mitchell Scholarship Fund

In September 1998 during a visit of President Clinton to Ireland the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern announced that the Government would contribute an endowment to establish a scholarship scheme for highly qualified American post-graduate students to attend Irish Universities.

The scheme is known as the George Mitchell Scholarships in recognition of the former Senator's contribution to the building of a lasting peace in Ireland.

Each student follows a post-graduate course in an Irish University or Institute of Technology and receives funding, including tuition fees, accommodation costs and a stipend.

Grant of US\$485,000 allocated by DES for 2016

Washington Ireland Programme

The Washington Ireland Programme identifies and supports talented students from all communities in Ireland and Northern Ireland with the objective of creating a network of leaders and influencers who can build the mutually supportive and constructive relationships to continue to deliver peace and prosperity on our island.

An extensive all-island promotional campaign to identify and attract students takes place each year to select 30 students who will participate in a six-month programme of personal and professional development. The programme involves a training programme in Belfast which also includes service in their local community; an eight week placement in Washington DC; and upon return home completion of a team public service project and continuation of public service in their communities. This Programme is funded by the Department of Education and Skills and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland.

Grant of €100,000 allocated by DES for 2016