School libraries have long been the Cinderella of the education system: dusty, dismal and unappreciated (that is when they exist in a school at all). At least, this is often the perception of them. In the last few years, however, various national initiatives, including changes in the curriculum, have resulted in libraries in schools at last being recognised as a prime means of encouraging young people to read. Unfortunately, for many schools and teachers no fairy godmother has arrived to transform unprepossessing library areas into vibrant centres for research and leisure reading, nor have empty shelves, or shelves laden with aged tomes, been magically filled with lively, attractive books which compel young readers to open them. This is unlikely to happen until provision for libraries, along with the proper resources (financial and expertise) to run them, is mandatory for all schools.

In the meantime, there are good libraries in many schools – often set up and run against great odds – which offer examples of how libraries are central to developing language and research skills and fostering a love of reading in students of all ages. There are also excellent public libraries throughout the country, many of which offer helpful facilities to schools and can supplement the work of the school librarian or teacher.

The following pages offer suggestions for getting a school library up and running, improving existing libraries and encouraging young people to use their libraries regularly and discover the joys of reading. Many of these ideas are well-tried and tested, others are more recent innovations. In particular, I have placed emphasis on using information technology (IT) to encourage reading: it is important for students to realise that books and computers can complement each other.
Variety within the range of resources provided is essential in any library. It is particularly important, in a rapidly changing Ireland, to stock books which reflect the circumstances of people from different parts of the world, and which describe people with beliefs and ways of life that might be unfamiliar to Irish children. It is also essential that the choice of books and materials takes into account students’ differing physical and intellectual abilities.

**Book Lists**

The lists of books given here were selected with a view to providing a basic collection of books for a school or classroom library. Some are new titles, others are more familiar and have been enjoyed by many young readers. This collection reflects the diversity of books published for young people in Ireland and the many different aspects of Irish life, and of life elsewhere, explored in fact and fiction for children.

The ‘Core Reading’ titles would usefully form the basis of a new collection or add to an existing one, while the ‘Recommended’ titles are further worthwhile additions, for consideration either now or at a later date. In annotating the ‘Core Reading’ lists, I have been mindful of how books may be integrated into the curriculum at both primary and post-primary levels. However, I am even more mindful of the capacity of books to enrich lives through sheer enjoyment, and every title selected here is a good read in its own right. For further guidance on age range and content the O’Brien Press catalogue should be consulted (e-mail books@obrien.ie for a free copy).

Of course, a collection of this kind is only a beginning. There are many other fine publications available from other publishers and some of these should also be part of any school library collection.

The bibliography of guides and reference works on page 5 will direct you towards additional suggestions for improving your library and enticing your students to read. In particular, Library File (sent by the Department of Education and Science to all schools) will help with many of the practical aspects of organising a school library. Children’s Books Ireland’s *Inis*, along with *Bookfest* and *Books for Keeps*, will help you to select new books for your library and will keep you up-to-date with the world of books for young people.

By providing information about and for school libraries, The O’Brien Press is playing an active role in encouraging reading in schools. I am pleased to assist in such an initiative because I believe that if teachers, librarians and publishers work together, we can create valuable opportunities to promote reading and books among young people.

I hope you will find this booklet useful in getting a school library up and running in your own school, or in improving an existing school or classroom library. Above all, I hope that you and your students will enjoy reading the many wonderful books available for children and young adults, including those discussed in these pages.

**Valerie Coghlan**

Valerie Coghlan is Librarian at the Church of Ireland College of Education, Dublin. She lectures on the MA degree course in Children’s Literature taught in St Patrick’s College, DCU and teaches a module on school libraries in UCD. She was awarded the 2003 Children’s Books Ireland Summer School Award for outstanding services to children’s books.

Valerie is a former editor of *Bookbird: an International Journal of Children’s Literature* and of *Inis the Children’s Books Ireland Magazine*. She has written articles and edited a number of books about children’s books and school libraries, including *Irish children’s Writers and Illustrators 1986-2006* with Siobhán Parkinson.

‘Books should enrich lives through sheer enjoyment.’

Illustration from *Emma says Boo!* by Woody Fox, text by Anna Donovan.
Developing a good school library takes time, patience and not a small amount of determination. Consider the suggestions below and the ideas contained in the publications listed on page 5. Be prepared to learn more about books and authors in order to put together a library that matches your school’s specific needs.

Starting Off

- Read Library File. Don’t be alarmed by all you have to do! It takes time to build an excellent library.
- Talk to staff and students about what they want from a school library. You won’t necessarily be able to, or want to provide everything requested, but it will give you a basis for starting or improving your school library.
- If you are working in a primary school, talk to your School Library Service and ask for help and advice.
- Visit a school in your area that has a good working library. For primary schools, the Schools Library Service will be able to give advice about this. For post-primary schools the local public library or the teachers’ unions may be of assistance.
- Check if there are any courses which would provide you with the skills and information you need. Primary teachers may find there are summer courses on offer. Post-primary librarians/teachers can attend the one-day courses in School Library Organisation which are run by ASTI. The School Library Association (SLARI) also holds events, such as conferences and seminars, which are very useful. At these you can meet and share information with others who are developing a school library.
- Join SLARI and get advice from experienced teachers/librarians.
- Draw up a Development Plan for the library. Library File will help you to do this. Remember that it is very important to involve other staff and students in drawing up the plan.
- Primary schools might like to choose a theme for the library and furnish and equip it accordingly, eg, the jungle, outer space, a wizard school’s library.

Consider asking your students to design a website for the school library and make sure the library is featured on the school website.
- You may also need to initiate and be involved in fundraising schemes to ensure the success of your school library.

Encouraging Reading

- Involve students and teachers in selecting books and other resources for the library. Provide them with access to the selection resources listed on page 5.
- Encourage reluctant readers to look at the websites listed on page 5 and to choose recommended books for the library. Most publishers have websites promoting their books and these are also worth a look.
- Attend conferences, seminars and talks run by the organisations listed on page 5. Such events will help to increase your knowledge of books.
- Make the library an integral part of the school: put up notices about what’s new in the library and signs and arrows directing/inviting people to the library; send reviews and catalogues to staff and students.
- Ask students to download bookplates from www.myhomelibrary.org and encourage them to design their own bookplates for use in the library.

Make an Event of it!

- Invite authors, illustrators and storytellers to the school library, but make sure you and the students are well prepared beforehand. Ask other schools and libraries for advice on pre- and post-visit projects. The excellent Writers-in-Schools scheme will provide you with invaluable support; contact details are provided on page 5.
- Many authors and illustrators, both Irish and international, have their own websites – ask the students to make a list of these. Then they can compile information files about the authors and illustrators whose work they enjoy.
- If authors/illustrators do not have a personal website they may have a dedicated page on their publisher’s site which you can check out. Inis and Books for Keeps carry regular articles about authors and author profiles, which provide a great deal of information about favourite writers. Many publishers also have free activity sheets and other classroom resources which can be downloaded from their websites, eg, see www.obrien.ie/schools. Publishers are usually glad to supply posters, bookmarks and other promotional material to schools.
- If you are in an area that has a good bookshop, it is well worth establishing contact with it. You should get a discount on library purchases and local booksellers can be very helpful with sponsorship, or prizes for library or book-related events. They will also know when visiting authors are in an area and there may be opportunities for your students to attend readings and other author events in the shop.
- Hold library events and mount displays relevant to topical local, national and international issues and events.
- Make the library an enjoyable and friendly place to visit for teachers and students alike. This doesn’t mean it isn’t also full of useful information and great books! The surroundings should be comfortable and welcoming and, ideally, there should be separate areas for relaxed reading and study/research.
One of the best ways to encourage reading enjoyment is to provide young readers with the ability and confidence to discuss a book critically, either verbally or on paper. On the other hand, children may be discouraged from reading if told they must write a review of a book as soon as they have read it. This is especially true of children who may have struggled to finish a book.

Before asking students to commit their views about a book to paper, give them:

A. the tools to discuss what they have read;
B. the confidence to do so.

- With younger children introduce and explain relevant ‘book’ terms, eg, author, illustrator, title, publisher, spine, endpapers.
- Build on this foundation by introducing more technical terms, such as character, plot, setting and genre (eg, fantasy, historical, humorous, time-slip).
- Begin by discussing books orally, then ask students to write very short reviews, or even blurbs for the back cover of the book.
- Make use of the novelty reviewing methods outlined in Reading Alive! and Library Alive!
- Make sure you include picturebooks (not just with young children) in books for review and encourage evaluation of how pictures and text interact.
- Provide young readers with a vocabulary for discussing picturebooks and graphic novels, eg, line, tone, perspective, crosshatching. (For more terms and definitions, see Jane Doonan’s Looking at Pictures in Picturebooks.)
- Encourage young reviewers to say why they did not like a book (or aspects of a book) as well as why they did like it.
- Write your own reviews and show them to your students. (You may find reviewing is more difficult than you thought if you haven’t done it before!)
- Encourage students to send reviews to www.cool-reads.co.uk, a website which displays reviews from young readers.
- Show older students reviews of books they have read, or might like to read, which have appeared in national or local newspapers, in Inis, or in Books for Keeps.
- Discuss different reviewing styles with older students.
- Don’t overemphasise spelling, writing, or grammar in book reviews: enthusiasm is the key, the rest can come later.
- Confidence should follow very quickly when students are prepared in this way.

**Book Activities**

- Ask a student to give a brief synopsis of the plot of a chosen book to the person next to her (encourage students to pick books with simple storylines). In turn, he tells his neighbour, and so it goes around the class or group. The last person to hear the story then tells it back to the whole group, who can then judge if it has improved or disimproved in the telling.
- Hide books (not very small ones) in the wrong place on the shelves and give a prize to the student who finds the most misplaced books. This game encourages close looking at the books along the shelves.
- Compile a database of the ‘most borrowed book of the week or of the month’. Involve students in this exercise and pin up the lists around the school.
- Ask students to write a newspaper article, or make a storyboard for a film or video based on a book they have read recently.
- Consult Library File, Library Alive! Reading Alive! and School Library Association publications for lots more ideas on how to help young people to enjoy books and reading.
- Have an ‘author focus’ event. Students collect information about favourite authors or illustrators and display it on the school website, or on a wall montage. Author information is available for publishers in Inis and in Books for Keeps’ ‘Authorgraph’ series, and on some of the websites listed on page 5. In addition, many authors now have their own website and in some cases can be contacted via their website.

‘It’s important to get children talking about the books they read!’
Illustration from Mad Grandad’s Robot Garden by Oisín McGann.
## Books

- **BookFest.** (CBI/YLG, Dublin.)
  - Produced annually for autumn Book Festival in October.

  - Coghlan, Susanna, Fitzpatrick, Mary & O’Dea, Lucy (Eds).

  - Coghlan, Valerie & Keenan, Celia (Eds).

  - Coghlan, Valerie & Keenan, Celia (Eds).

  - *Library File: Making the Most of the School Library.* (Library Association of Ireland, Dublin, 1999.)

  - Coghlan, Valerie & Parkinson, Siobhán, eds.


- Flynn, E., Hahn, D. & Reuben, S. *The Ultimate First Book Guide 0-7.* A&C Black

- Hetherington, R. & Ranson, C. (Eds). *Book Choice: Guidelines for Primary Schools.* (CBI, Dublin, 2001.)

- Morris, Liz & Coghlan, Susanna.

- Ranson, C & Rowan, J (Eds). *Book Choice for Post-Primary Schools.* (CBI, Dublin, 2002.)


## Periodicals

- **Bookbird: an international journal of children’s literature.** IBBY (International Board on Books for Children).
  - [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org)

- **Books for Keeps.**
  - [www.booksforkeeps.co.uk](http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk)

- **Inis: the Children’s Books Ireland magazine.** CBI
  - [www.childrenbooksireland.com](http://www.childrenbooksireland.com)

- **The School Librarian.** School Library Association. [www.SLA.org.uk](http://www.SLA.org.uk)

## Organisations

- Children’s Books Ireland,
  - 17 Lower Camden Street,
  - Dublin 2
  - [www.childrensbooksireland.com](http://www.childrensbooksireland.com)
  - info@childrensbooksireland.com

  - €25 individual subscription; €35 school subscription.

- IBBY Ireland,
  - Ireland Literature Exchange,
  - 19 Parnell Square,
  - Dublin 1
  - [www.IBBY.org](http://www.IBBY.org)

- Poetry Ireland,
  - 120 St Stephen’s Green,
  - Dublin 2
  - [www.poetryireland.ie](http://www.poetryireland.ie)
  - poetry@iol.ie

- Reading Association of Ireland,
  - St Attracta’s Senior School, Meadowbrook,
  - Ballinteer,
  - Dublin 16
  - €25 individual subscription.

- School Library Association Republic of Ireland (SLARI),
  - Sutton Park School,
  - St Fintan’s Road,
  - Dublin 13

- School Library Association of Northern Ireland (SLANI),
  - Dr Richard Murphy (secretary), Strangford College, Abbey Road, Carrowdore BT22 2GB, County Down
  - Tel: 028 (048 from RoI) 91861199
  - [www.sla.org.uk](http://www.sla.org.uk) (for both SLARI and SLANI)

## Reviews on Internet

- Children’s book sites, publishers’ sites and booksellers’ sites are a source of information about books for young people. Some interesting websites are:

  - Achuka [www.achuka.co.uk](http://www.achuka.co.uk)
  - Book Trust (Young People’s section) [www.booktrusted.co.uk](http://www.booktrusted.co.uk)
  - Carol Hurst’s Children’s Literature site [www.carolhurst.com](http://www.carolhurst.com)
  - Children’s Books Ireland [www.childrensbooksireland.com](http://www.childrensbooksireland.com)
  - Children’s Literature [www.childrenslibrary.com](http://www.childrenslibrary.com)
  - Cool-reads [www.cool-reads.co.uk](http://www.cool-reads.co.uk)
  - Mrs Mad’s Book-a-Rama [www.mrsmad.com](http://www.mrsmad.com)
  - My Home Library [www.myhomelibrary.org](http://www.myhomelibrary.org)
  - National Centre for Language and Literacy [www.ncll.org.uk](http://www.ncll.org.uk)
  - Roald Dahl [www.roalddahl.com](http://www.roalddahl.com)
  - Rollercoaster [wwwROLLERCOASTER.ie](http://wwwROLLERCOASTER.ie)
  - School-Library.Org [www.sla.org.uk](http://www.sla.org.uk)
  - Stories from the Bog [www.storiesfromtheweb.org](http://www.storiesfromtheweb.org)
Books for ages 4–7 years

This is the stage at which most children begin primary school and start learning to read in a structured way for the first time. The library should contain lots of books which show how much fun books can be – books with plenty of bright, high-quality illustrations. It is especially important at this stage to pay attention to appropriate levels of language, and this applies to books in both English and Irish. Early independent readers which will engage their audience are essential for the older end of this age-group.

CORE READING

**Strawberry Squirt (Panda 27)**
Patrice Aggs
Strawberry Squirt is a great game, but the rabbits don’t want Short Legs to play. ‘Oh dear! What can Short Legs do?’ A wonderful story for beginner readers.
64 pages

**Granny MacGinty**
Marita Conlon-McKenna
Illus. Leonie Shearing
Granny MacGinty’s family decides she needs a pet to keep her company, but their efforts only complicate her life. At last she finds the pet that suits her best, but chaos reigns at the MacGintys as they cope with a rejected dog, rabbit, parrot and snail. A humorous commentary on independence and old age.
32 pages

**No Shoes for Tom! (Panda 2)**
Una Leavy
Illus. Margaret Suggs
Tom loves to go barefoot, but when the snow comes he finds that it isn’t so much fun anymore. However, a pair of bright red boots soon makes him feel better. A story for first readers showing how problems can be sorted with a bit of imagination. Charming illustrations.
64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-526-0/$6.95 pb

**Strawberry Squirt**
[Image]

**Snip Snip! (Panda 18)**
Creina Mansfield
Illus. Maeve Kelly
Erin discovers the delights of scissors and snipping. But then she gets carried away with her new skills, with some unexpected results! An entertaining story for early readers, featuring an over-enthusiastic child and some cross-generational family interaction.
64 pages

**Cinders (Panda cubs 5)**
Maddie Stewart
Illus. Alison Spencer
Poor Cinders is all alone. Miss Moll finds a new friend for her. But will Cinders like Tiger? A charming story for beginner readers, fully illustrated in colour.
48 pages

**Here, There and Everywhere**
Liz Weir
Illus. Tomm Moore
The birth and growth of babies of all kinds – human, animals, birds – illustrated and described. Both text and illustrations are accessible and engaging, with a matter-of-fact approach. This is an excellent, reassuring introduction to the subject for the young.
32 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-869-8/$5.95 pb

**The Henny Penny Tree (Panda legends 3)**
Siobhán Parkinson
Illus. Lisa Jackson
Great Uncle Fergus gives a gold coin, a silver coin and a copper coin to his three nieces, Tall One, Middling and Littlest. Now, you can buy lots of lovely things with gold and silver, but what can the Littlest girl do with her copper coin?
48 pages

**The world is full of Babies!**
Manning & Granström
The birth and growth of babies of all kinds – human, animals, birds – illustrated and described. Both text and illustrations are accessible and engaging, with a matter-of-fact approach. This is an excellent, reassuring introduction to the subject for the young.
32 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-479-9/$7.61 pb
Conor’s Concert (Panda 26)
Gillian Perdue/Illus. Michael Connor
Conor starts piano lessons, but he finds the tunes he must practice boring. So he makes up his own very special music. Conor’s spirited determination and individuality are wonderfully refreshing and reap rewards for him.
64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-847-6/£5.95 pb

Molly’s Night Out (Panda cubs 8)
Una Leavy
Illus. Woody Fox
Molly is scared of the strange - noises and silence - in the country. She’s sure there’s a monster out there! She and Granny and Grandad go out to explore the dark night. Expertly designed specifically for very young children, perfect as a lead-up to the Panda series.
48 pages

Bertie Rooster (Panda cubs 2)
Maddie Stewart
Illus. Patrice Aggs
Bertie Rooster loses his confidence in a skirmish with a fox. But when Bertie discovers how much he is needed by a little lost hen, he regains his old vigour. A delightful story, with great illustrations, which shows that even the biggest and most confident among us likes to be needed.
48 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-798-1/£5.95 pb

The Riddle (Panda legends 1)
Felicity Hayes-McCoy
Illus. Randall Stephen Hall
The Gobán Saor is the best craftsman in the whole world. But he is in big trouble. Will his riddle save him from the King of Greece? Panda Legends are ideal for beginner readers with exciting stories and illustrations throughout.
48 pages

Art and Craft Adventure 1 & 2
Carroll & Long

Mr Bear to the Rescue
Glori, Debbie
ISBN: 978-0-86278-498-0/£6.98 pb

Mr Bear’s Picnic
Glori, Debbie

Alfie Green and the Monkey Puzzler
Joe O’Brien

Spotty Sally (Panda 16)
Herron, Anne Marie
ISBN: 978-0-86278-640-3/£5.95 pb

A Garden for Tom (Panda 7)
Leavy, Una
ISBN: 978-0-86278-568-0/£5.95 pb

Mouse TV
Novak, Matt
ISBN: 978-0-86278-699-1/£7.50 pb

Granny’s Secret (Panda 21)
Dawson, Brianóg Brady
ISBN: 978-0-86278-726-4/£5.95 pb

The Little Black Sheep (Panda 6)
Shaw, Elizabeth
ISBN: 978-0-86278-463-8/£5.95 pb

The Story of the Creation
Ray, Jane

Owl Babies
Waddell, Martin
ISBN: 978-0-86278-392-1/£7.95 pb

Snobby Cat
Patrick Deeley
ISBN: 978-0-86278-946-6/£5.95 pb

Emma says Boo! (Panda Cub 3)
Donovan, Anna
ISBN: 978-0-86278-795-0/£5.95 pb

Finn’s Thumb
Felicity Hayes-McCoy
ISBN: 978-1-84717-0354/£5.99 pb
Books for ages 7–10 years

This is the age by which independent reading may be established, but many children still need support and encouragement. Books in short chapters with a high level of visual content will provide that support. On the other hand, some children in this group will be very fluent readers and will require books which will stimulate and challenge them in terms of both content and language level.

**CORE READING**

**Benny and Omar**
*Eoin Colfer*
Champion hurler and smart aleck Benny Shaw is not pleased when his family moves to Tunisia, North Africa. But matters improve when he meets local boy Omar and opportunities for mischief arise. However, Benny learns that Omar’s life has a more serious side, and that not every child has a loving family and a comfortable home. A funny but thoughtful exploration of family life, friendship and learning about new places and cultures. Especially interesting for sports-mad boys.
240 pages

**The O’Brien Book of Irish Fairy Tales and Legends**
*Una Leavy*
Illus. *Susan Field*
An outstanding collection of well-known and well-loved stories, including ‘The Children of Lir’, ‘Tír na nÓg’ and ‘The King’s Secret’. The retellings read aloud beautifully. Illustrations on each page, some full spreads, capture the Celtic theme brilliantly and also give a lot to look at and talk about. A book to treasure.
96 pages
ISBN 0-86278-482-9/$17.95 hb

**The Supermarket Ghost**
*Gordon Snell*
Maria is shocked to discover that the strange boy in the supermarket is really a ghost called Davy. She agrees to help Davy with his plan of revenge... An exciting and unpredictable ghost story suitable for younger readers
64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-650-2/$5.95 pb

**Mad Grandad’s Robot Garden**
*(Flyer 12)*
*Oisin McGann*
Lenny’s Mad Grandad gets an unusual present of a robot gardener from his even madder brother in Japan. Things start to go awry when the robot plants a crop of nuts and bolts and new machines start to blossom! An inventive, wildly illustrated story with an eccentric grandfather character who children will warm to.
64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-821-6/$5.95 pb

**Walter Speazlebud**
*David Donohue*
When Walter discovers he can spell backwards, all sorts of strange things happen, especially to his teacher Rm Gnorts (Mr Strong). A zany story about school, spelling and a bit of magic, which has an underlying, more serious theme related to bullying.
112 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-762-2/$5.95 pb

**Seven Spiders Spinning**
*Gregory Maguire*
When seven Siberian tarantulas fall in love with the Tattletale girls only chaos can ensue, especially when it also involves the Copycat boys’ club and rivalry over the Hallowe’en Pageant of Horrors. A funny, fast-paced story with a twist from a great storyteller.
144 pages

**Bróga Thomáis (Sos 7)**
*Úna Leavy*
Léaráidí Margaret Suggs
Is bres le Tomáis síul cosnochta go dtí go dragann an sneachta? Réitíonn buataisí deargar an fhadhb seo dó! Scéal iontach le léaráidí áille don léitheoir óg a léiríonn conas fadh an dráma a réiteach le húsáid na samhlaiocht.
64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-782-0/$5.95 pb

**The Book of Curses**
*Conor Kostick*
When Alex Zwick finds a magic book, he just can’t stop making wishes - even after they go horribly wrong. Full of giant, venomous spiders, vengeful gnomes and themes from mythology, this is a scary but fun page-turner.
80 pages
The Great Pig Escape
Linda Moller/ Illus. Donald Teskey
Thirteen pigs go on the run to escape their dreadful fate at the market. Their adventures provide plenty of entertainment as they learn the ways of the wild and try to find a new home. The author is a dedicated environmental campaigner, so this is a good read with lots of environmental issues to discuss.
144 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-667-0/£6.50 pb

Daifní Dineasá (Sos 4)
Áine Ni Ghlinn
Léaráidí Michael Connor
Is cleasaithe iad Niall agus Conall a chuireann isteach ar Mhamai go minic. Ach a mhalaítr de scéal atá ann nuair a thagann Daifní Dineasá ar cuairt! Scéal spraiúil faoi chlaise a theann thar foir.
64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-745-5/£5.95 pb

Adam’s Starling
Gillian Perdue
Adam is being bullied at school, but his Mam doesn’t want to know about it; she has enough troubles. When a starling Adam has befriended is harmed by the bullies, Adam has had enough. He remembers what his Grandad told him and confronts his tormentors. A well-told story about standing up for yourself, which deals gently with the tough issue of bullying in schools.
160 pages

The Twelve Dancing Princesses
Jane Ray
A retelling of the Brothers Grimm story of the twelve princesses who love to dance all night long. The characters are vividly brought to life in stunning illustrations. Each page is more gorgeous than the last in this splendid picturebook from an outstanding artist.
32 pages

Juliet’s Story
William Trevor
The magic of storytelling is wonderfully evoked during Juliet’s trip to France with her grandmother, who keeps her granddaughter richly entertained with her tales. But Juliet is distressed to have no story of her own. Then the sight of a trout in a restaurant fish tank sparks her imagination and her ability to create her own stories. A book that provokes questions and could play a role in a creative-writing project.
128 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-823-0/£6.50 pb

Wired Teeth
Oisín McGann
Crazy dentists, secret agents and remote controlled braces – welcome to Jason’s world! Jason McGinty’s a bad kid, and his teeth are worse - the maddest crookedest teeth ever... But it’s when Jason gets computer controlled teeth that things get really weird...
96 pages
ISBN 978-1-84717-003-3/£6.95 pb

Jigsaw Stew (Flyer 6)
Conor McHale
When Jack’s family turn into jigsaw pieces, he has to come to the rescue. With the aid of Doctor Mulgrew all comes right in the end (except for one surprise!). A lively, imaginative story, in chapters, with strong illustrations.
64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-688-5/£5.95 pb

RECOMMENDED

Art and Craft Explorer
Carroll & Long

Cáitín sa Chistin
Dogg, Stephanie
ISBN: 978-0-86278-712-7/£5.95 pb

Don’t Open that Box!
McHale, Conor
ISBN: 978-0-86278-705-9/£5.95 pb

Fishbumb and Splat
McHale, Conor
ISBN: 978-0-86278-735-6/£5.95 pb

The Lough Neagh Monster
McBratney, Sam

The Fight for Plover Hill
Dillon, Ellis
ISBN: 978-0-86278-709-7/£6.34 pb

Deirdre agus an Fear Bréige
Leavy, Una
ISBN: 978-0-86278-713-4/£5.95 pb

Animals Don’t Have Ghosts
Parkinson, Siobhán

Safe Harbour
Conlon-McKenna, Marita
ISBN: 978-0-86278-422-5/£7.95 pb

Six Haunted Hairdos
Maguire, Gregory
ISBN: 978-0-86278-542-0/£6.34 pb

The Leprechaun Who Wished He Wasn’t
Parkinson, Siobhán
ISBN: 978-0-86278-334-1/£5.95 pb

Brian Boru
Llywelyn, Morgan
ISBN: 978-0-86278-230-6/£7.95 pb

Celtic Tales of Enchantment
Mac Uistín, Liam

The Witch Apprentice
Broderick, Marian
ISBN: 978-1-84717-129-0/£6.95 pb

The Witch in the Woods
Broderick, Marian
Books for ages 10–12 years

Children will have clearly defined tastes and reading abilities by this stage. The library collection should reflect this diversity of interests and requirements with a good, well-thought-out mix of titles. It should include books which will be challenging reads alongside books for occasions when some ‘downtime’ is needed.

**CORE READING**

**All About Hurling**
*Irene Barber*
Many different aspects of hurling (and camogie) are discussed in this colourful and excellently produced book. It has plenty of fascinating information laid out in a clear, user-friendly manner that suggests links with different subject areas, such as PE and SESE, as well as providing a good read for sports enthusiasts.
32 pages

**It Wasn’t Me**
*Creina Mansfield*
Jack’s way of dealing with school bullies is to invent an identical twin brother, Jasper, who can confront Jack’s tormentors, but this ingenious plan inevitably leads to complications. Light-hearted and great fun, but will provoke discussions about lying, pretending and how to solve problems.
144 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-696-0/€6.95 pb

**The Wish List**
*Eoin Colfer*
Meg has always been a troublemaker, but her biggest challenge comes when she gets to Heaven’s gates and must give an account of herself to St Peter. Now she has just one chance to get inside those gates as rival forces try to claim her soul. An imaginative and lively read.
224 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-894-0/€7.95 pb

**Just Joshua**
*Jan Michael*
Joshua enjoys playing with the other village boys, doing odd jobs at the market and helping his father. But when the villagers refer to his father contemptuously as a ‘mountain man’, Joshua finds out that being different can cause problems. This thoughtful novel shows Joshua’s growing understanding of the significance of cultural differences and the negative effects of suspicion, racism and lack of individual thought.
192 pages

**Skimming**
*Robert Dunbar (Ed.)*
An entertaining and varied collection of short stories from some of Ireland’s most well-known authors, including Mark O’Sullivan, Eoin Colfer and Siobhán Parkinson. Some are serious, some are funny, but all are suitable for reading aloud or solo reading and may be helpful for those not yet confident enough to tackle a novel.
160 pages

**Four Kids, Three Cats, Two Cows, One Witch (maybe)**
*Siobhán Parkinson*
The ‘four kids’ take a trip to an island where an encounter with a (possible) witch is only one of the strange happenings which take place and which demonstrate the power of stories to change people. Both challenging and entertaining, this intelligently structured novel blurs the reader’s perception of fact and fantasy.
192 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-525-3/€7.95 pb

**Pirate Queen**
*Morgan Llywelyn*
Grace O’Malley, pirate and trader, is one of Ireland’s most infamous figures. A thorn in the side of the English, she lived an extraordinary, adventure-filled life. Plenty of historical interest and colour here to keep the reader interested, in an exciting story with lots of action and a strong heroine.
160 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-974-9/€7.95 pb

**Katie’s War**
*Aubrey Flegg*
Katie is worried about her father, who is suffering from shellshock after fighting for the British in the Great War. Her brother has become involved with rebel troops intent on ending British rule in Ireland. Everyone is fighting and noone can see eye to eye. Eventually, Katie must make a brave and difficult decision in this engrossing tale set in the Civil War period in Ireland.
192 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-525-3/€7.95 pb

*Children will have clearly defined tastes and reading abilities by this stage. The library collection should reflect this diversity of interests and requirements with a good, well-thought-out mix of titles. It should include books which will be challenging reads alongside books for occasions when some ‘downtime’ is needed.*
**The Moon King**
Siobhán Parkinson
Ricky, a shy, quiet boy, is overwhelmed by his new foster family, their big house and all the other children who live there and rush about laughing and shouting. He seeks out a secret place of his own where he can be alone. A sensitive portrayal of a boy who is set apart by his experiences, in an engrossing drama about bullying, family life and friendship.
176 pages

**Faraway Home**
Marilyn Taylor
Based on true stories, this novel about children sent, for their own safety, from Vienna to Northern Ireland during the Second World War captures the plight of young people caught in a period of turmoil. Their life at the farm refugee centre at Millisle is described with humour and poignancy, and always a lurking sense of danger. An exploration of the effects of war and displacement on the young.
224 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-643-4 / £7.95 pb

**War Children**
Gerard Whelan
A powerful collection of six short stories, set during the War of Independence, in which child protagonists face challenging and dangerous situations. The six different lives portrayed encompass a wealth of experience and emotion, depicting children as individuals in their own right, with their own opinions, reactions and feelings.
192 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-776-9 / £7.95 pb

**A Girl Called Blue**
Marita Conlon-McKenna
Warmly sympathetic account of Blue, who has spent most of her life in an orphanage, and her struggle to find a home of her own. This sensitive novel, which authentically details its setting in 1960s Ireland, will raise questions of identity and belonging.
224 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-887-2 / £7.95

**Epic**
Conor Kostick
#WELCOME TO EPIC: PRESS START TO PLAY#
On New Earth, Erik is drawn into the sinister world of Epic. Epic is not just a computer game, it's a matter of life and death. If you lose, you lose everything; if you win, the world is yours for the taking. This complex book covers themes such as the possible justification of violence.
320 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-877-3 / £7.95

**A Horse called El Dorado**
Conor Kostick
Pepe loves to gallop across the plains of Colombia on his horse El Dorado. Then the guerrillas come, and he has to move to Ireland to live with his grandparents. Finally another horse called El Dorado makes Pepe's heart soar. This book is full of adventure and action and is beautifully atmospheric.
144 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-977-7 / £6.95

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**RECOMMENDED**

**Shakespeare's Scribe**
Blackwood, Gary
ISBN: 978-0-86278-706-6 / £6.95 pb

**The Shakespeare Stealer**
Blackwood, Gary
ISBN: 978-0-86278-634-2 / £7.95 pb

**Benny and Babe**
Colfer, Eoin
ISBN: 978-0-86278-603-8 / £7.95 pb

**Under the Hawthorn Tree**
Conlon-McKenna, Marita
ISBN: 978-0-86278-206-1 / £7.95 pb

**Wildflower Girl**
Conlon-McKenna, Marita
ISBN: 978-0-86278-283-2 / £7.95 pb

**Fields of Home**
Conlon-McKenna, Marita
ISBN: 978-0-86278-509-3 / £7.95 pb

**The Island of Ghosts**
Dillon, Eilís
ISBN: 978-0-86278-708-0 / £6.95 pb

**The Vikings in Ireland**
Llywelyn, Morgan

**Strongbow**
Llywelyn, Morgan
ISBN: 978-0-86278-274-0 / £7.95 pb

**Five Alien Elves**
Maguire, Gregory
ISBN: 978-0-86278-739-4 / £6.95 pb

**Cherokee**
Mansfield, Creina
ISBN: 978-0-86278-368-6 / £6.95 pb

**Celtic Tales of Enchantment**
Mac Uistin, L

**Call of the Whales**
Parkinson, Siobhán

**Saint Patrick**
Simms, George Otto

**The Gods and their Machines**
McGann, O
ISBN: 978-0-86278-834-6 / £7.95 pb

**Kate**
Parkinson, Siobhán
ISBN: 978-0-86278-933-0 / £7.95 pb
Books for Post-Primary

The books suggested here cater mainly for the first three years of post-primary school, although some are drawn from the adult list and will also be of interest further up the school. This is a stage when students make the transition from reading books aimed at children to reading young adult and adult titles. It is important to cater for weak readers as well as for those with excellently developed reading skills, so the library collection must be wide-ranging in content and reading levels.

CORE READING

All About Hurling
Irene Barber
Both sports-lovers and armchair-supporters will love this very attractive and clearly written introduction to hurling (and camogie). The information, which is laid out in a clear, user-friendly manner, will provide a good stimulus for project work. The outstanding visual presentation and accessible text will attract those who enjoy sport more than reading.

Wild Irish Women
Marian Broderick
An accessible and entertaining collection of biographies of over seventy notable Irish women from Ireland’s past who lived lives that set them apart from the norm. Invaluable as a spur to further reading and for reference and research work.
368 pages ISBN 978-0-86278-780-6 / £12.95 pb

Dublinia, The Story of Medieval Dublin
Howard Clarke, Sarah Dent, Ruth Johnson
An attractively illustrated introduction to life in medieval Ireland, particularly in Dublin. The text, written by experts in the field, is clear and concise, and the whole is well designed. Very useful for both history and art research, and a fascinating read.
128 pages ISBN 978-0-86278-786-8 / £12.95 pb

The Heroic Life of Al Capsella
Judith Clarke
Wry look at family life through the eyes of teenager Al, who has parent problems and school problems and all sorts of problems due to the embarrassing behaviour of the occupants of the adult world. A great read and one which shows how laughter can overcome embarrassment.

The Wish List
Eoin Colfer
Meg has always been a troublemaker, but her biggest challenge comes when she gets to Heaven’s gates and must give an account of herself to St Peter. Now she has just one chance to get inside those gates as rival forces try to claim her soul. An imaginative and lively read.
208 pages ISBN 978-086278-8940/ £7.95 pb

A Girl Called Blue
Marita Conlon-McKenna
Warmly sympathetic account of Blue, who has spent most of her life in an orphanage, and her struggle to find a home of her own. The setting, in 1960s Ireland, is authentically detailed. Readers will empathise with Blue and engage with the questions of identity and belonging which are raised.
224 pages ISBN 978-086278-8872/ £7.95 pb

Wings Over Delft
Aubrey Flegg
Book 1 in the Louise trilogy, concerning a painting that begins life in an artist’s studio in seventeenth-century Holland. Louise, the subject of the portrait, is an independent and likeable heroine. Growing-up, family ties, romance and an interest in the new scientific theories of astronomy are pivot points in her life as she confronts difficult decisions and struggles to be true to herself. An absorbing, well-structured read.

The Cinnamon Tree
Aubrey Flegg
Yola’s life is changed forever when she is badly injured by a landmine. Set in Africa and Ireland, this is a telling account of the damage inflicted by landmines and the campaign to rid Africa of this invisible menace. It is also a sensitive account of a young African woman’s maturing in difficult circumstances. She must find the courage to follow the path life has chosen for her.
208 pages ISBN 978-0-86278-657-1 / £7.95 pb

The Chieftain’s Daughter
Sam McBratney
Set in Ireland at a time when the old pagan religion is confronted with the new Faith, this is a story of young love caught up in a clash of cultures and beliefs. A challenging and rewarding read for older children.
Sisters ... no way!  
Siobhán Parkinson
Cindy is not happy when her widower father begins to spend a lot of time with Ashling’s mother – and she has ways of showing it. Ashling just wants her mother to be happy, but Cindy’s behaviour is making life difficult for everyone. A clever, topsy-turvy story about teenage anxieties, dealing with the death of a parent, family life, plus a smattering of romance.
224 pages  
ISBN 978-0-86278-495-9/5w_7.95 pb

Brown Morning  
Franck Pavloff
A political satire about a world in which the only acceptable colour is brown. This dictate seems harmless enough at first, but it is a creeping madness. Plenty to discuss in a seemingly simple book with a big message. The inclusion of the original French text makes it suitable for use in language classes too.
32 pages  
ISBN 978-0-86278-838-4/5w_4.95 pb

Irish Writers Against War  
Conor Kostick & Katherine Moore
This anthology of prose and poetry from leading Irish writers is an impassioned stand against war. With over thirty contributors and many new pieces of work, this anthology is a unique collection of Irish political writings. Writers include Roddy Doyle, Peter Sheridan and Seamus Heaney. Preface by Brian Friel. Royalties to the Irish Anti-War Movement.
244 pages  

Out of Nowhere  
Gerard Whelan
Stephen and Kirsten inexplicably find themselves in a strangely empty world, threatened by an unseen predator. As events unfold, things become even more sinister in this taut thriller where everything is familiar but also different.
240 pages  

War Children  
Gerard Whelan
A powerful collection of six short stories set during the War of Independence, in which child protagonists face challenging and dangerous situations. The six different lives portrayed encompass a wealth of experience and emotion, depicting children as individuals in their own right, with their own opinions, reactions and feelings.
192 pages  
ISBN 978-0-86278-776-9/5w_7.95 pb

RECOMMENDED

Friend of My Heart  
Clarke, Judith
ISBN: 978-0-86278-432-4/5w_5.07 pb

Cracking Crime  
O’Connor, Niamh

The Easter Rising  
Collins & Kostick
ISBN: 978-0-86278-638-0/5w_9.95 pb

When Love Comes to Town  
Lennon, Tom
ISBN: 978-0-86278-361-7/5w_9.95 pb

The Vikings in Ireland  
Lwelyn, Morgan
ISBN: 0-86278-816-1/5w_9.95 pb

Out of the Flames  
McDonnell, Vincent
ISBN: 0-86278-764-5/5w_6.95 pb

Exploring Newgrange  
Mac Uistin, Liam
ISBN: 978-0-86278-981-7/5w_9.95 pb

It Wasn’t Me  
Mansfield, Creina
ISBN: 978-0-86278-696-0/5w_6.95 pb

My Nasty Neighbours  
Mansfield, Creina
ISBN: 978-0-86278-462-1/5w_7.95 pb

O’Brien Pocket History of Irish Traditional Music  
Ó hAllmhuráin, Gearóid

Ways of Old  
Sharkey, Olive
ISBN: 978-0-86278-599-4/5w_14.95 pb

A Fire in His Head  
Todd, Loreto
ISBN: 978-0-86278-757-8/5w_15.00 pb

Gangland  
Williams, Paul

The General  
Williams, Paul

Exploring the Spanish Armada  
Glover, Winifred
ISBN: 978-0-86278-646-5/5w_11.41 hb

The Rainbow Bridge Book 2: The Louise Trilogy  
Flegg, Aubrey
ISBN: 978-0-86278-9171-6/5w_7.95 pb

In The Claws of the Eagle Book 3: The Louise Trilogy  
Flegg, Aubrey
ISBN: 978-0-86278-927-8/5w_9.95 pb

Great Irish Writing (The Best of the Bell)  
McMahon, Sean
ISBN: 978-0-86278-043-3/5w_7.95 pb
Please use the form on this page and the next to order books. You can photocopy the form as many times as you like. Please note that prices are subject to change without notice.

### 4–7 YEARS

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All books in 4–7 years age-group. Normal price €199.41. Special price €175.

### 7–10 YEARS

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All books in 7–10 years age-group. Normal price €207.98. Special price €180.

### 10–12 YEARS

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TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Don’t be alarmed by all you have to do!
It takes time to build an excellent library.

Encourage reluctant readers to look at the websites listed on page 5 and to choose recommended books for the library.

Invite authors, illustrators and storytellers to the school library.

Choose a theme for the library and furnish and equip it accordingly, e.g., the jungle, outer space, a wizard school’s library.

Make the library an enjoyable and friendly place to visit for teachers and students alike – an integral part of the school.

Contains everything you need to know to make your school library a hive of activity, written by an expert in the field.

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