



Course title: 'Learning without walls' - Creative pedagogy for 21st century teaching and learning in the natural environment

Venue: Russborough House & Parklands, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

Date/time: Thursday May 16th 2019, 1.00pm-4.30pm

Course leaders: Prof Carmel O'Sullivan and Brian Poots

Cost: €35 (includes a sandwich lunch at 12.30pm and tea/coffee mid afternoon)

Dress: Comfortable clothing and footwear suitable for the outdoors is recommended

Course Description

This short course will explore the theory and practice of teaching and learning creatively across the curriculum using arts-based pedagogies and nature as a stimulus to exploring our natural landscape.

Following a successful project at Clondeboye Estate involving Brian Poots of the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association, Lady Dufferin coined the term 'Learning without walls' to describe an approach to education where children and young people enjoy learning in the natural environment.

This course will discuss the related 21st century skills of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication, which underpin all learning and teaching in a rapidly changing century. It will demonstrate how these skills can foster students' well-being through spending time outdoors experiencing and enjoying learning through nature.

The first half of the course will introduce teachers and others with an interest in this area to compelling educational arguments about developing students' creative and critical faculties, sharing practical advice on how to achieve this in educational contexts. The second half will involve participants in experiencing a series of outdoor creative activities such as den building, which can be used with students to encourage their engagement with nature and the environment around them on a regular basis.

About the presenters

Professor Carmel O'Sullivan is the director of the Arts Education Research Group in Trinity College and a Trustee of the Alfred Beit Foundation. She is an internationally renowned

speaker on education, with particular expertise in the areas of creativity, arts education, and inclusive education.

Brian Poots is the Director of the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association and founder of the first Forest School Academy in Northern Ireland.

Background

This course is offered in partnership between Russborough, Trinity College, the Irish Forest School's Association, and the National Gallery of Ireland. The Beits were passionate about preserving Russborough for the people of Ireland, and using their house, its collections and parklands as an inspiring centre for arts-based learning for children and young people locally and nationally.

The National Gallery welcomes participants and their students to an exhibition they are running *between 13 April and 7 July in the Beit Wing of the gallery* entitled: *Shaping Ireland: Landscapes in Irish Art*. Encompassing a range of artistic media and perspectives, this exhibition explores the relationship between people and the natural world, revealing the significant role artists have played in visualising aspects of human impact on the environment (<https://www.nationalgallery.ie/art-and-artists/exhibitions/shaping-ireland-landscapes-irish-art>)

The Irish Forest School Association (IFSA) was founded in 2016 and is engaged in the promotion and development of the Forest School (FS) movement in Ireland. They bring Forest School practitioners together to inspire inclusive, playful learning for all, in nature. They aim to build resilience and relationships, through students' connection with each other, and the natural world, while inspiring creativity and supporting wellbeing. More information can be found on their website www.irishforestschoollassociation.ie.

Booking Details

To reserve a place, please contact Ms Pauline Swords: pauline@russborough.ie

As places are strictly limited, early booking is advisable.

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NATIONAL
GALLERY of
IRELAND



Irish Forest
School Association

