

# Seachtain na Gaeilge

## A Virtual Celebration of Irish Language and Heritage



## WHAT IS eTWINNING?

eTwinning is an online platform that supports teachers and educators to work on collaborative projects together in any curricular area.

## WHY TAKE PART IN eTWINNING?

- We have a dedicated website where teachers can create a profile, search for partners, develop and deliver their own eTwinning projects.
- Teachers also have access to 'TwinSpace'. This is a private and secure online workspace where you and your partner(s) administer the project and where students can be invited to contribute to the TwinSpace as members.
- eTwinning facilitates online and face-to-face learning opportunities for teachers to enhance their skills, competencies and pedagogical approaches
- The collaborative nature of eTwinning enhances students' confidence and communication skills
- eTwinning gives students an international perspective to their learning and education

## WHAT IS THE SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE eTWINNING PROJECT?

This eTwinning project aims to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week) by connecting Primary and Post-primary schools with other schools around Ireland, through a range of virtual activities which promote the Irish language, cultural understanding and collaboration.

### Key Information:

**Difficulty level:** Beginner

**Key competencies:** Digital Skills, Language Skills, Creative skills, Presentation Skills, Teamwork.

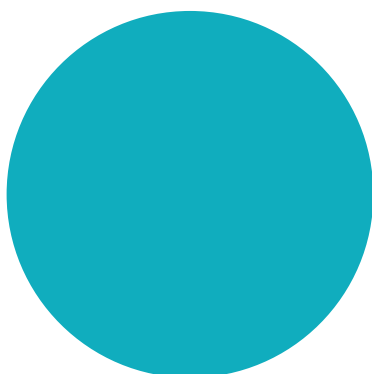
**Subjects:** Gaeilge, English, History, Geography, SPHE, Music, Art

**Level:** Primary (2nd Class to 6th Class) & Post-Primary

**Suggested Time Frame:** 1 - 2 Weeks

### How to register:

1. Set up a profile first on ESEP here: [ESEP](#)
2. Select your role as 'teacher'.
3. Once you confirm your profile by email, you should get a prompt to join eTwinning.
4. In the organisations search bar, enter the name of your school.
5. Your profile will then be validated on the platform.



## HOW CAN MY SCHOOL TAKE PART IN THIS PROJECT?

Follow these steps to start connecting and collaborating with other schools around Ireland:

**Step 1:** Connect - Find a partner/s school through the **Partner Search** function on the eTwinning platform.

**Step 2:** Create - Students investigate Irish cultural heritage. Then they create content to show what they learned.

**Step 3:** Collaborate - Collaborate with your partner school/s to share what you have learned.

### Step 1: Connect

- Find your partner school/s through the **Partner Search** function on the eTwinning platform [here](#).
- Use the **Online Meetings** function of the TwinSpace to introduce your school in our virtual space.
- Introduce your school with a school video, or slideshow presentation (e.g. PowerPoint, Keynote, SlideShare).
  - You could include some of the following: a map of the school, its location, specialised rooms, yard areas, PE hall, canteen, classrooms and common areas.
  - You could include captions/titles in Irish
- Agree and share a work plan and time schedule with your partner/s and develop topic ideas. Publish the work plan in your TwinSpace and modify as necessary.

### Step 2: Create

- Explore the cultural heritage of Ireland by investigating aspects such as Irish language, traditions, folklore, music, sport and literature, emphasising the relevance and richness of the Irish language and culture. You can upload your research to **Pages**.
- Engage students in interactive discussions online about language diversity and the importance of cultural understanding. (Suggestions: Mentimeter, WordArt.com)
- Discuss personal experiences in terms of students' connection to Irish heritage, or exploring different languages and cultures. Use **Forums** for this activity.
- Inspire students by showcasing photos, videos, or excerpts from Irish literature and music (YouTube). This content can be uploaded to the **Files** and **Images** Facility in the TwinSpace.
- Include a simple interactive language activity, such as teaching a well-known song in Irish (Lurgan TV - YouTube). These can be embedded in the TwinSpace.

### Step 3: Collaborate

- Students share what they have learned to date.
- Partner schools continue to explore Irish Cultural Heritage by engaging in collaborative activities. Below, find a suggested list of activities:



## Project Activity Suggestions:

### 1. LANGUAGE EXCHANGE BLOG

- Set up a linked blog (Padlet) between schools and join a shared online **TwinSpace**.
- Write blog posts in Irish, sharing experiences, thoughts and daily life.
- Make an audio recording/podcast using Audacity, or Garage Band, sharing personal experiences, through Irish

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### 2. VIRTUAL LANGUAGE CAFÉ

- Organise virtual 'language café' sessions using the **Online Meeting** facility.
- Engage in casual conversations and play Irish language games (Digital Dialects / [www.gamesasgaeilge.ie](http://www.gamesasgaeilge.ie)).

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### 3. IRISH CULTURE SHOWCASE

- Research and create multimedia presentations (videos, slideshows etc.) showcasing various aspects of Irish culture. Include traditional Irish music, poetry, dance, folklore, festivals, and Irish art

(Upload to **Files and Images Folders** in the **TwinSpace**.)

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### 4. COLLABORATIVE STORYTELLING

- Start a collaborative storytelling project (StoryJumper / BookCreator) with each school contributing to create a story in Irish. This story could be based on an Irish legend/ myth such as The Salmon of Knowledge, Tír na Óg, or An Gobán Saor.

(Embed in the **TwinSpace**.)

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### 5. PEN PALS WITH A TWIST

- Pair students from different schools as pen pals.
- Students can then communicate regularly using Irish to share information about their cultures, schools, and lives.

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### 6. IRISH LANGUAGE CHALLENGES

- Include some language challenges where students from all participating schools can compete. Challenges may include creating short videos, writing poems, or solving language-related puzzles in Irish. Students can vote for their favourite content, for example, by using Mentimeter polls.

(Upload these to the **Pages** facility in the **TwinSpace**.)

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### 7. CULTURAL EXCHANGE DAY

- Plan a virtual cultural exchange day where each school presents a traditional aspect of Irish culture. This can include performances, demonstrations, and discussions.

(Record and upload on YouTube and embed in the **TwinSpace**.)

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### 8. ONLINE IRISH LANGUAGE QUIZ

- Develop an interactive online quiz with questions related to the Irish language, history, and culture. (Blooket / Kahoot). Schools can form teams and compete in real-time, virtually.
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## 9. VIRTUAL SEISIÚN CEOIL (MUSIC SESSION)

- Host a virtual music session where students showcase their musical talents with traditional Irish instruments, or songs. This can be a collaborative performance with students contributing from different locations.

(Record and Upload on YouTube and embed in the TwinSpace and in the **Videos** facility.)

## 10. GAELIC SPORTS CHALLENGES

- Introduce friendly challenges related to traditional Irish sports, such as hurling or Gaelic football. Students can record themselves attempting the challenges and share the videos and records with other participating schools (Longest Puck, Penalty Kicks, Point Scoring, Solo Runs).

(Record and Upload on YouTube and embed in the TwinSpace and in the **Videos** facility.)

## 11. VIRTUAL TOURS - AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

- Collins Barracks - take part in a virtual introductory tour, taking in some of the highlights from the Museum's military history and decorative arts collections.
- National Museum Architecture - a 3D showcase of the Centre Court, The Treasury and Viking Ireland.
- Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising
- The Winter Solstice Tour

Available at: <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museum-at-Home/Virtual-tours-and-visits>

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Students will be enabled to:

- Develop and enhance proficiency in the Irish language through structured language activities, conversations, and collaborative projects
- Increase cultural awareness and understanding of the Irish heritage, traditions, and customs.
- Integrate Irish language learning with other subjects, providing a better understanding of the language and its cultural context
- Facilitate collaborative learning experiences where students work together on projects, promoting teamwork, communication skills, and cultural exchange
- Utilise technology platforms to enhance language learning with tools for virtual collaboration, online resources, and multimedia content that supports language acquisition
- Encourage authentic communication in the Irish language through real-life scenarios, such as interviews, presentations, or collaborative projects, to build practical language skills
- Engage with local community groups and cultural events to create meaningful connections and provide opportunities for immersive language experiences
- Develop critical thinking skills by analysing cultural texts, literature and media related to the Irish language, encouraging students to reflect on different perspectives and interpretations
- Improve self-directed learning habits by providing resources and activities that allow students to explore aspects of the Irish language and culture based on their individual interests
- Gain a sense of responsibility and commitment to the sustainability of the Irish language by encouraging ongoing language learning beyond the duration of Seachtain na Gaeilge

## CURRICULAR LINKS

There are a range of subject areas into which this project can be integrated:

### Primary School: 2nd to 6th Class

SUBJECT	STRAND
<b>Gaeilge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Éisteacht</li> <li>Labhairt</li> <li>Léitheoireacht</li> <li>Scríbhneoireacht</li> </ul>
<b>English</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receptiveness to language</li> <li>Competence and confidence in using language</li> <li>Developing cognitive abilities through language</li> <li>Emotional and imaginative development through language</li> </ul>
<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story</li> </ul>
<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Environments</li> </ul>
<b>SPHE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myself and the Wider World</li> </ul>
<b>Music</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listening and Responding</li> <li>Performing</li> <li>Composing</li> </ul>
<b>Art</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drawing</li> <li>Paint and Colour</li> <li>Print</li> <li>Clay</li> <li>Construction</li> <li>Fabric and Fibre</li> </ul>

**Cross-curricular Opportunities:** Digital Skills

### Post-Primary School: Junior Cycle

SUBJECT	STRAND
<b>Gaeilge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicative Competence</li> <li>Language and Cultural Awareness</li> <li>Learner's Self-Awareness</li> </ul>
<b>English</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oral Language; Reading; Writing: Elements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicating as a listener, speaker, reader, writer</li> <li>Exploring and using language</li> <li>Understanding the content and structure of language</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Nature of History</li> <li>The History of Ireland</li> </ul>
<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring People, Place and Change</li> </ul>
<b>Music</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedural Knowledge</li> <li>Innovate and Ideate</li> <li>Culture and Context</li> </ul>
<b>Art</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> <li>Craft</li> <li>Design</li> </ul>

**Cross-curricular Opportunities:** Digital Skills

### Post-Primary School: Senior Cycle

SUBJECT	STRAND
<b>Gaeilge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuiscint</li> <li>Labhairt</li> <li>Scríobh</li> </ul>
<b>English</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehending</li> <li>Composing</li> </ul>
<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early Modern Ireland</li> <li>Later Modern Ireland</li> </ul>
<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Geography</li> </ul>
<b>SPHE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing</li> <li>Composing</li> <li>Listening</li> </ul>
<b>Music</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research</li> <li>Create</li> <li>Respond</li> </ul>

**Cross-curricular Opportunities:** Digital Skills

## Evaluation and Assessment

- Evaluations can be carried out throughout the project after each activity by gathering students' reflections in a project journal, either physically or virtually.
- Students can also compile a portfolio (digitally) showcasing their language development, cultural exploration and collaborative project contributions.
- A Blog using Padlet and a YouTube video can be used along with the TwinSpace to disseminate the project. A QR code could be made available to students to visit the blog and to respond to other students' work.
- Peer and self-assessment tools for the project could include reflection sheets, learning logs, online polls and discussions in eTwinning forums.
- Online quizzes and assignments can be used to assess comprehension of cultural materials, language rules, and historical aspects.

## Dissemination/follow-up

- A dedicated project TwinSpace and Padlet blog could be established to showcase activities, achievements and project work, while social media platforms can be used to compliment participant engagement.
- An online project Newsletter (Visme) or Magazine (Madmagz) could be used to document the project and help share the project's story with a broader audience.
- To follow up on the project, post-project surveys (Microsoft Forms / Google Forms) will gather feedback and additional language learning resources can be provided.





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