



Heritage in Schools – Return to outdoor visits

Dear schools

The Heritage Council is delighted to announce that Heritage in Schools visits will return from Monday, 13th September, offering a mix of in-person, outdoor visits and virtual visits. Furthermore, visits will be **FREE to schools** and fully funded by the Heritage Council as a way of supporting teachers and students at a time when the benefits of nature and the outdoors are at an all-time high.

What will be offered to schools from 13th September?

1. FREE in-person visits

- Schools may book **up to three free visits** each. The offer is subject to available funding and it is recommended that you book early to avoid disappointment
- Visits will be fully-funded by the Heritage Council
- Visits will be outdoors only, regardless of weather

2. FREE virtual visits

The virtual programme will be offered by a limited number of specialists, who have undergone specific training and have gained appropriate experience through the 2020/2021 pilot programme.

- Schools may book **up to three free visits** each. The offer is subject to available funding and it is recommended that you book early to avoid disappointment
- Visits will be fully-funded by the Heritage Council

NOTE: IN ORDER TO REACH AS MANY SCHOOLS AS POSSIBLE THE LIMIT WILL BE THREE VISITS PER SCHOOL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

How do I book a visit?

- Visit the Heritage in Schools website www.heritageinschools.ie and browse our Heritage Specialists for ‘virtual’ or ‘in-person’ visits
- When you find a Specialist to suit your requirements **contact the Specialist** to arrange a date and then select **‘book a visit’** on that Specialist’s profile page
- You will receive an email with a reference number when your booking is approved

Please note the following before submitting a booking request:

- Visits will be delivered outdoors only and on the school premises. Requests for field trips can be assessed on a case-by-case basis. **Indoor visits will not be provided under any circumstance until further notice**
 - School Covid-19 protocol for visitors must be emailed to the Specialist in advance of the visit. Our Specialists will strictly adhere to protocols in place
 - Specialists will work with a maximum of 2 pods/30 children
 - Face coverings will not be worn unless specifically requested by a school
 - Specialists will accept the risk that visits may be cancelled due to inclement weather but schools are required to give at least 5 working days' notice for cancellation of virtual visits, so that slots can be reallocated
- Please appreciate that Specialists are self-employed and do not get paid for cancelled visits - a late cancellation means loss of earnings**
- A visit confirmation form will need to be completed and signed by the class teacher after each visit
 - Specialists will remain up-to-date with [public health measures](#) relating to COVID-19

Further information:

Please direct any questions you might have to Maria Walsh:

Email: mwalsh@heritagecouncil.ie

Phone: 086 083 4685 (between 10am and 3pm, Monday-Friday)

Kind regards

Maria Walsh
Heritage in Schools Programme Manager
The Heritage Council