






# KILLARNEY



SCHOOL OF ENGLISH









## FAMILIES




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# Welcome to Killarney

Are you looking for that special holiday where all of your family can learn English and have fun at the same time? Maybe you have teenage children or even small children and have found it difficult to find a holiday destination that will suit all their needs. At Killarney School of English we believe we have the answer for you as we are one of the only language schools in Ireland that can offer family courses. Because we are situated in one of the most beautiful areas of Ireland, on the doorstep of Killarney National Park with its mountain ranges and lakes, we are able to accommodate not only adults but also young children (3-12 years old) and teenagers (13-17 years old).

This means that parents can receive classes with the reassurance that at the same time their children are receiving the best in English language tuition in a study environment that is both appealing and safe. If parents do not wish to study that is fine too. We will teach your children while you play golf, go fishing, take long walks or cycles in the National Park, visit places of historical interest or take tours of the Kerry, Dingle and Beara Peninsulas.

Whatever way you wish to organize your holiday, we the directors, will be delighted to help you, so please feel free to e-mail or ring us at any time. Most important is that you have a happy and rewarding stay so we will try wherever possible to accommodate your interests and concerns.

Best wishes

Nicola and Feargal



# The School



Killarney School of English was established in 2000. Killarney School of is accredited by the Department of Education time and Science and ACELS. It is a small family run school. There are language programmes for adults (18 +), teenagers (13-17) and small children (3-12). Adult English classes are held in the main school building at the entrance to Killarney National Park. The children's courses are held in the 'Kidzone' behind the school on the same site. Teenage English Camps are held at our teenage school in Lisivigeen.

There is Wi-Fi throughout the school. There is a common room on the top floor with a coffee machine where you can relax and meet other students. There is a fridge and a microwave also. There are picnic tables in an eating area at the back of the school to have your lunch if the weather is nice!



## The Courses

**GE1** 15 hours of General English in a group

**GE2** 20, 25 or 30 hours of General English in a group.

All General English courses cover the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, grammar, Vocabulary and pronunciation if necessary with a oral communication and listening. Materials are taken from a whole range of diverse texts in order to tailor-make the programme to each group of students.

If you feel you have more specific needs that cannot be accommodated in a group class it is possible to take a **one-to-one course** in the afternoons only. You can decide in advance how many classes you wish to take and tell us what you wish to be taught in that time. It can simply be General English if you wish or something more specific like speaking practice, Legal English or Business English.

## Teachers

In order to remain accredited by the Department of Education and Science, Killarney School of English can only recruit fully qualified language teachers who hold a university degree and a TEFL qualification.



# The Staff, Testing & Fees

## The Staff

All our staff are highly-trained and fully-qualified to teach English as a Foreign Language. They are extremely motivated, supportive of students and sensitive to their cultural and pedagogical needs. All have experience in teaching EFL either in Ireland or abroad and continue to train by taking part in workshops or training courses in institutions throughout Ireland.

The school's two directors, Nicola and Feargal, are both qualified EFL teachers, with Masters degrees in TESOL and 45 years of teaching experience between them. Our secretary, is also a qualified teacher with 20 years of teaching experience both in Ireland and abroad, which means she can help not only with any administrative queries but also with any teaching-related issues.

## Testing & Levels

Once you have applied to the school you will be asked to complete an online placement test which will be used to assess your current level of English and will allow us to place you in the appropriate class for your stay. We offer 6 different levels from Beginners (A1) to Advanced (C1) I am afraid we do not have Proficiency (C2) classes.

## Fees Include

- All course materials Free access to the self-access room with Graded Readers, Exam Papers, Pronunciation guides, Reading and Writing Practice, Grammar and Vocabulary Practice, DVDs
- An information pack with maps and guides
- Bus transport to and from school within Killarney town
- Wi-Fi
- A certificate of attendance and achievement on course completion.
- Free bike rental on a first come first come basis

## Course Curriculum

For the majority of students who come to us during the summer, the goal is to improve their speaking and listening skills. Having spent most of their teenage years and beyond, learning the rules of grammar, they realise that they still have little confidence when it comes to the spoken language. Therefore we use a communicative approach, communication being the end goal for all language learning. The methodology then emphasizes the use of role-play, situational dialogues, discussion and games to increase confidence and improve fluency.



# Our School, Teachers & Courses

## Our School:

We are delighted to be able to offer English tuition to your children. Our school in Muckcross has a specially designed area at the back of the main building just for children, which we call the 'Kids Zone'. It consists of 5 classrooms, a performance area, picnic tables and large play area. Its close proximity to the main building, where the adults have classes, means that you can keep an eye on your children, while enjoying your own classes in peace.

## Our Teachers:

Our teachers are all fully-trained in teaching English to young learners and the course methodology reflects all the current thought in language teaching. Class sizes are small (no more than 12 students per class) which means that each child can receive a lot of teacher attention. In addition, we have a children's coordinator who is responsible for looking after all teacher and student needs and for organizing all afternoon activities. This should make parents secure in the knowledge that their little ones are safe and getting the most out of their classes



## Children's Courses

We offer two programmes in the Summer only.

**GE1:** 15 hours of General English in a group per week (maximum class size is 12)

**GE3:** 15 hours of General English in a group per week + 15 hours afternoon activities

At the end of each course, each child will receive a certificate stating their level, what the course covered and attendance dates.

## Testing & Levels

As with the parents, children will be asked to complete a short written test before their arrival at the school. This will enable us to put them in the appropriate level. During the first morning the teacher will assess their level again through spoken interaction. If the teacher feels that the child is in the wrong level, a decision can be made in conjunction with the children's coordinator, director of the school and parents to move them up or down a level



# Levels and Curriculum

## English levels:

Killarney School of English offer five levels:

**Introductory 1:** This level is mainly for the 3-4 year age range that has little or no English and can only cope with very basic vocabulary.

**Introductory 2:** This level is mainly for the 5-6 age range that again has little or no English but have the ability to learn more advanced sets of vocabulary and very basic grammatical structures.

**Beginner:** This level is for those children who have little or no English but are old enough to make rapid progress.

**Elementary:** This level is for those children who already have a fair vocabulary base for everyday topics and a grasp of certain grammatical structures such as the present simple tense.

**Pre-intermediate:** This level is for those children who have a very good vocabulary base for everyday topics and some knowledge of different tenses such as the present, past and future tenses



## Curriculum

The children's English language curriculum is designed to make the act of language learning both fun and stimulating for young learners. It combines the most up-to-date communicative language teaching methodology with role play, songs and games to ensure that children leave with a positive feeling about their learning experience in Killarney.

To reinforce the fun aspect of the curriculum, children will be expected to perform a short song or songs and/or sketch at the end of every week, thus putting into practice language learned during the week.

## Friday performance:

Every Friday between 11:20-12:00 a performance is held in 'the Kidz Zone' for the benefit of the parents. This is an opportunity for children to show what they have learnt during the week both in the morning classes and in the afternoon activities. This should give children great motivation during the afternoons as they know they will be performing at the end of the week. Here is a basic idea of what is covered during the performance.

- 11:20-11:40 songs sung by each class rehearsed in the mornings.
- 11:40-11:45 Short Irish dance or short traditional music piece rehearsed during Irish dancing or traditional music lesson in the afternoons.
- 11:45-11:55 short play rehearsed in the drama lesson but using art props designed in the art class.
- 11:55-12:00 certificate ceremony for those leaving that week

# Activity Programme

We run a specific activity programme for the children during the summer which runs in the afternoons between 2 and 5pm. Activities include:

**Jaunting Car:** Enjoy seeing the sights of Killarney on a jaunting car(horse and cart)ride around Killarney National Park, followed by playtime in Knockreer playground.

**Animal Roadshow** ;learn about and touch a variety of different animals such as owls, snakes and lizards from this visiting zoo and do a selection of arts and crafts based on these animals.

**Traditional Irish Music Lesson** Learn how to play the tin whistle and bodhran with a professional music teacher.

**Visit to Kennedy's Pet Farm;** a chance for children to pick up and stroke all kinds of domestic animals from puppies to ponies.

**Clayfun** with Robin and Tim making clay models .

**Irish dancing classes** with Lisa; learn how to wow people back home with a genuine Irish jig or reel!

**Arts and Crafts.** Creative afternoon of art and Drawing

**Sports day:** enjoy this afternoon of, rounders and fun team games.

**Drama Session;** Enjoy playing drama games, dressing up and performing short sketches.

**Nature trail:** Enjoy this magnificent walk to Muckross Abbey through the national park; followed by nature project work



# Teenagers 13-17

What better way for your teenage child / children to improve their English and have the experience of a lifetime, than to enroll them on one of our teenage programmes. With over twenty five years of experience we know how to balance what parents want for their children and what teenagers enjoy.

To ensure the teens get a sense of independence, (and that parents get a little freedom!) they are taught in a separate school situated on the outskirts of Killarney. It is a newly refurbished premises, equipped with the most modern facilities. Classrooms are big, airy and spacious and there is a week performances.

The teachers are all fully qualified to teach English to teenagers and have had many years of teaching experience both in Ireland and abroad. Our teachers are therefore sensitive to cultural, pedagogical and social needs of individual students. Our teenage coordinator is responsible for the overall smooth running of the teenage programme by looking after the general needs of teachers and students and organising all afternoon activities. This should reassure parents that although their child/children are separate from them, they are being looked after and supervised at all times by professionals. The coordinator will create a WhatsApp group for all individual students.

Class sizes are small with on average 10 students per class (maximum 15) and there is a mix of nationalities, giving teenagers a greater chance to make friends and practice their English.

## Courses

We are able to offer two courses for teenagers.

**GE1:** This course is only available to teenagers who are staying in Killarney with their parents. It consists of 15 hours of English in a group class per week. (mornings only)

**GE3:** This course is available to all teenagers and is the only course available for teenagers who are not here with their parents. It consists of 15 hours of English in a group class per week + 15 hours of activities in the afternoons and a Saturday day trip.

**End of Course** At the end of each course, each child will receive a certificate stating their level, what the course covered and attendance dates.

## Testing & Levels

As with the parents & children, teenagers will be asked to complete a short written test before their arrival at the school. This will enable us to put them in the appropriate level. Again the teacher will assess their level through spoken interaction during the first morning and if they feel that the child is in the wrong level, a decision can be made in conjunction with the teenager coordinator, director of the school. During the summer we run 6 levels for teenagers from Beginner to Advanced (A1-C1).





# Curriculum & Activities

## Course Curriculum

As with all the other age groups, we understand that the main objective for most teenagers is to improve their listening and speaking skills. They wish to take the greatest advantage they can of being taught in an English-speaking country and put the English they have

learned to good use both inside and outside the classroom.

This is why the curriculum tends to follow a communicative approach with teachers using a methodology that emphasizes the use of role-play, situational dialogues, discussions, drama to increase confidence and improve accuracy as well as fluency. Reading and writing skills also play a part in helping the speaking as they generate and consolidate new vocabulary and grammar.

## Afternoon Activities

Killarney School of English runs a specific activity programme in the afternoons from 2-5 pm. Activities include:

**Jaunting Car Trip** around Killarney National Park; enjoy this sightseeing tour around Killarney by Jaunting Car followed by a town Treasure Hunt.

**Sports** in the Spa GAA Club including basketball, soccer, Zumba, kick boxing, Gaelic football and tag rugby.

**Swimming** at the Aquila Club in the Gleneagle Hotel.

Visit to **Muckross Traditional Farms**; go back in time and see how Irish people used to live, visit their cottages, farms and watch them making butter and baking bread.



# Activities & Day Trips



Enjoy an active experience of **orienteering** in Killarney National Park

**Pitch and Putt** at the Gleneagle; enjoy a round of Par 3 Golf.

**Cycling** Tour of Killarney National Park, Muckross Abbey, Muckross House, Dundag Beach and Torc Waterfall

## Day Trips / Excursions

Ballyhass Waterpark  
Ballyhass Adventure Centre Surfing at Banna  
Kayaking / Archery / Paintball at Star Outdoors  
Jamie Know Waterpark  
Day Trip To Blarney Castle  
Day Trip to Cork City

**Motor boat trip** to Dinis; enjoy this fantastic boat journey through the two lakes via the meeting of the waters

Afternoon **disco** in Killarney Town Centre. Students can create their own Spotify Playlist.



**Irish Dancing** Talk and Class with Lisa; find out information about Irish Dancing and learn how to wow people back home with a jig or a reel!

**Capoeira** Workshop with Testa Wilson; learn about and practice this fascinating martial art from Brazil



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# Accommodation

## Host Family Accommodation

Your comfort and welfare outside of class hours is a very high priority to us and that is why we have taken great care in choosing a host family for you. Living in a host family is very different from staying in a B&B or hotel. You are a guest but at the same time treated as members of the family and so you should not expect special treatment. You are encouraged to spend time with the family but must also appreciate that there will be occasions when the family need time on their own.



## Meals

Most host families may eat their evening meal earlier than would be customary in your own country. Usual eating times are 5:30pm-7:30pm. A lot depends on how late your family works. In many cases work finishes between 5pm and 6pm but in some cases it can be later. Occasionally there are people who do shift work at night.

## Laundry

Your laundry will be included with the family's and / or you will have access to laundry facilities.

If you have any problems with your host family you can speak to your teacher, or Director Feargal. The school has a full time Accommodation office responsible for host families who is here to help!

## The Bedroom:

All students have single rooms unless otherwise requested. The bedroom should include a desk/ table for study, adequate storage for clothes and a comfortable bed with fresh bed linen provided at least once a week. bathroom should be available to you every day. Please check with the family as to the best time to use the bathroom, particularly in the morning.

You are expected to keep your room tidy and to make your bed every day. You could also help your family with small jobs such as clearing the table after the meal, etc.

# Accommodation



## Self Catering

There is a wide range of self-catering apartments, cottages or holiday homes in Killarney available for students who wish to live more independently. Some of these are in the town centre or can be in the suburbs or in the countryside. Accommodation usually includes a single or twin room with lounge, kitchen and bathroom facilities. All apartments usually include microwave, laundry facilities , TV, video, fridge, etc...




Most providers have now moved to booking engines. If you wish we can use local knowledge to check the booking engines like booking.com and air bnb and send you some suggestions. To do this we would need precise dates, a possible budget and if there is a plan to rent a car. If a car is rented there are far more and cheaper self-catering options outside the town centre. We also have some Host Families on holidays during the summer on holidays renting out house for a few weeks. This may coincide with travel dates and would be a lot cheaper than air bnb or booking.com.




















## B&B and Hotels

Killarney boasts an astonishing array of B&Bs and hotels. Altogether, there are about 200 B&Bs and over 50 hotels to choose from. As with all accommodation, bookingearly is essential especially during July and August so that you can have your preferred option. The Killarney School of English has a special arrangement with the Killarney Oaks Hotel ([www.killarneyoaks.com](http://www.killarneyoaks.com)) next door to the school. As with all types of accommodation we can either book it for you or you can contact the institutions directly.



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