

Kids' Own Annual Report 2015

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Bringing the arts to the lives of all children in Ireland.



ive 16

Donna in P2.

Joe 3 groups P1R7

9-12 in ICT Room
R7 (First)

P6 Funtasia

P3 Market Hill

Sharon - the artist in

wrapping the infant

yard - ~~may~~ **will** cause

disruptions! Sorry

- Infants use field-break + kind

leaves Mass at 17.

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Who we are

Since its inception in 1997 Kids' Own has emerged as a key organisation that supports the provision of exemplary arts practice with children and young people in Ireland. An integral part of this work is the commitment to supporting professional artists in developing their practice with children and young people and all other professionals working with children through the arts. Kids' Own is primarily focused on supporting the engagement that occurs between artists and children and in developing a way of working with children and young people that develops their own individual creative expression through the creative process. The outcomes from this engagement serve to further promote the arts in the lives of children in terms of resources that support practice, or work in itself that supports children and young people as active cultural creators in their own right. Kids' Own is located in Sligo, we work locally and across Ireland and Northern Ireland in partnership with many schools, venues, arts organisations, local authorities and government departments. Kids' Own is a significant employer of freelance professional artists in the northwest and in the rest of Ireland, and we are committed to supporting artists in developing their own practice working with children and young people.

Our work develops out of our own defined need and also as a result of other agencies and organisations approaching and commissioning Kids' Own to further support their work with children and young people. Kids' Own is passionate about the role of the arts in the lives of children and through our programmes and partnerships we aim for continuity of experience for children, depth of engagement and breadth of impact. Through our work within the last year alone our lens has broadened and we can see clearly the significant lack of provision that exists for children right across their lives from early years right through to senior cycle and beyond. To fulfill its mission, Kids' Own will have to continue to break down barriers. It must challenge attitudes towards children and their role within the arts. It must raise awareness among families, teachers and policy makers of the value of the creative experience for children across all stages of their lives. It must seek to foster influential champions, engage in professional development and influence national policy and curriculum reform. It must raise the profile of children's art and written work and document high quality processes of engagement, and support the development of professional arts practice with children and young people.

Our aims

Aim 1. Access & engagement: Increase access for children to engage in artistic activity with professional artists on an on-going basis within their everyday lives and learning experiences.

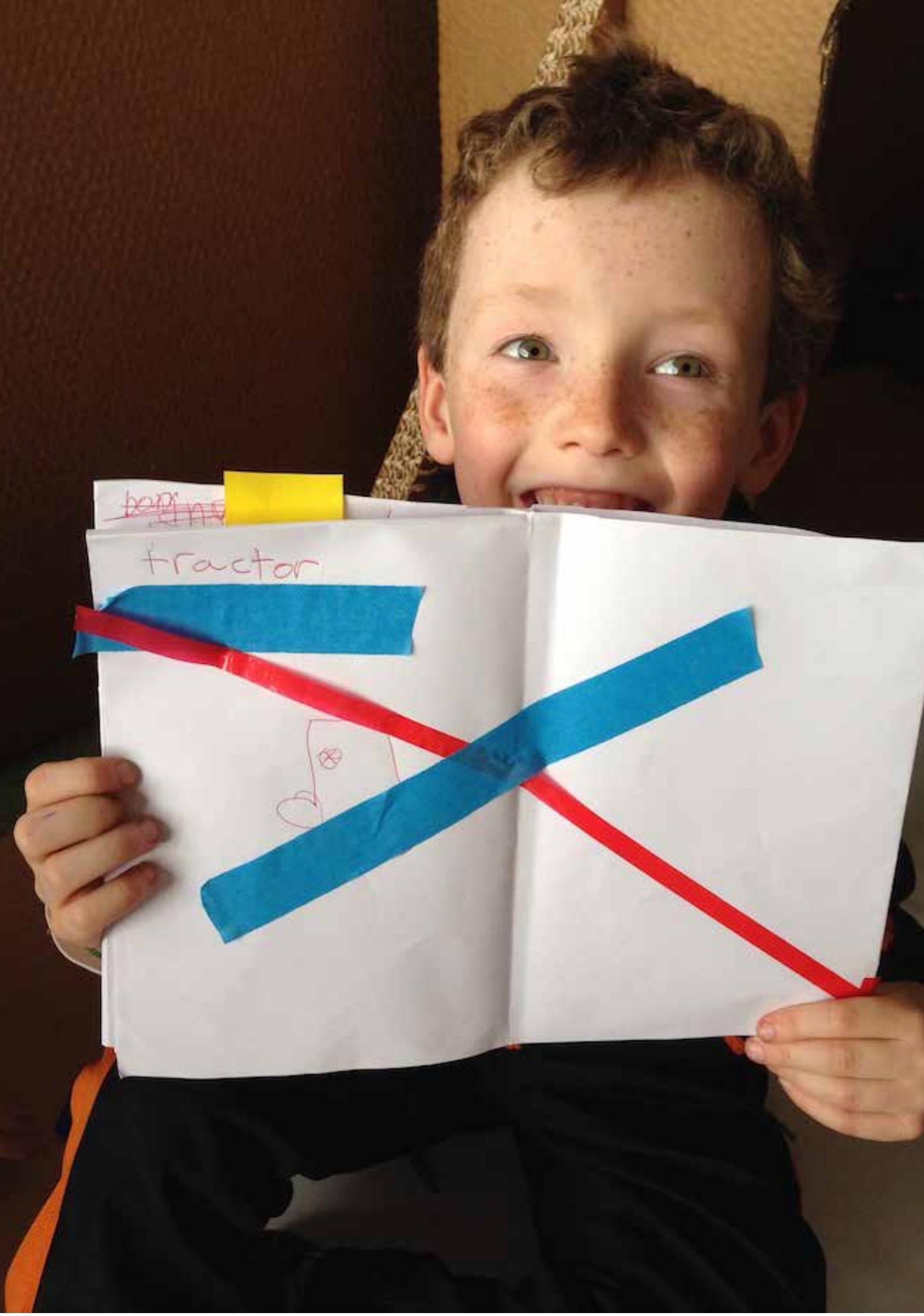
Aim 2. Dissemination & recognition: Improve recognition of children's own work and ideas.

Aim 3. Quality and professional learning: Create opportunities for professionals who support and nurture children to develop their own practice working with children and young people.

Aim 4. Building internal capacity: Ensure Kids' Own has the internal capacity to achieve its aims.

Artistic programme 2015

Kids' Own's artistic programme consists of a range of interconnected and mutually supportive activities that work together to fulfil the organisation's key aims. These include publishing programmes, artist residencies, dissemination of work through touring, festival events, professional development and research. What follows is a short overview for each aim and a report on selected activities in 2015.



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Aim 1:

ACCESS & ENGAGEMENT

Increase access for children to engage in artistic activity with professional artists on an on-going basis within their everyday lives and learning experiences.

Kids' Own is dedicated to bringing the arts to the lives of all children and young people in Ireland. We provide a way of working that empowers children and young people to develop their own individual creative expression through authentic arts practice alongside professional artists.

Key programmes 2015/2016

Local Engagement

- Sligo Children's Book Festival
- Wild Words Children's Festival
- Kids' Own Summer School
- Culture Night - Story House
- Book Press
- Book Factory - Cinemobile

National Engagement

- 100 Year History Project
- Yeats Among School Children
- HSA Building Safety
- I am, I have, I can
- The Kindness Project

Online Engagement

- Virtually There
- Write Here



Story house, An event for families as part of culture night Sligo 2015, with artists Vanya Lambrecht ward and Naomi Draper.

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Kids' Own is committed to working in partnerships locally to provide opportunities for children and their families to engage in the arts.

In the Northwest there is a dearth of quality provision for children where they are supported in their own individual creative expression. Counties Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo and Roscommon have a child population of over 75,000. However, there is no continuity of engagement for children and a lack of dedicated experiences designed to support the wide demographic of children and families living in the northwest.

It is worth highlighting that Ireland has a percentage of jobless households with children of 56% as compared to the European average of 24% (NESC). Within this, Sligo also shows statistics that highlight our need to attend to poor educational attainment and the potential knock-on effect in terms of exclusion and marginalisation from cultural engagement. 53.5% of the population in Sligo have not gone beyond second level education and 16.6% have not passed primary level. By providing opportunities for consistent arts experiences, we can help to address this and support parents, teachers and childcare practitioners in recognising the value of children's active engagement within their schools and wider communities.

In 2015 our aim was to build on existing relationships locally and to develop more long-term programmes within local venues, arts centres, schools and early years settings. Kids' Own aims to work in partnership over the coming year with Sligo County Council to further develop our work together and to explore the feasibility of more long term supports for children and families in Sligo.

Key partners

- Sligo County Council
- Sligo Education Centre
- The Model
- The Hawk's Well Theatre
- The Dock
- Carrick Education Centre
- Leitrim Arts Office
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
- Sligo Community Psychology Service
- Markievicz House, Sligo
- HSE North West

cillians tooth

my room he was
my ~~bed~~ bed. he ~~was~~ jumping
jumping a lot. He
banged his tooth
there was lot's of
blood. From Eoghan.

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Kids' Own is committed to working in partnerships nationally to provide opportunities for children and their families to engage in the arts.

Children account for approximately one quarter of Ireland's population, but funding allocations and provision of services for children are not in any way representative of this.

In terms of the children's arts sector, there are no standards to guide the quality of engagement or practice currently being undertaken by artists, childcare workers and teachers, nor any evidence base or consistent evaluation to assess if this work is having a positive and meaningful impact on child development. Activities for children tend to be passive events, where children are the 'consumers' of work created by adults, rather than active 'makers' of art and culture. Provision also tends to be inconsistent, and does not actively invite participation from a wide demographic of children and families.

Aside from quality of engagement, access to the arts in Ireland is still largely socially determined. The educational and social impact of this is significant and remains a challenge for all those who believe in the intrinsic value of the arts.

Kids' Own work seeks to address these issues. Throughout our work we aim to question and challenge children's role within their communities and the significant role artists play within children's lives.

From our perspective there is a real lack of opportunity for children and teachers to engage with artists in schools at both primary and post primary level. Kids' Own aims to build our residency programme to ensure more children have this opportunity.

In 2015 Kids' Own worked directly with 2717 children. Indirectly, through our partnership with the HSA and the ATECI we worked with 104,000. (100,00 children entered the Yeats Among School Children Programme).

Key national partners in 2015/2016

- ATECI
- HSA
- Department of Education
- Department of Arts
- Arts Council
- Arts Council of Northern Ireland
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- UNICEF
- DIT

Programmes in 2015/2016

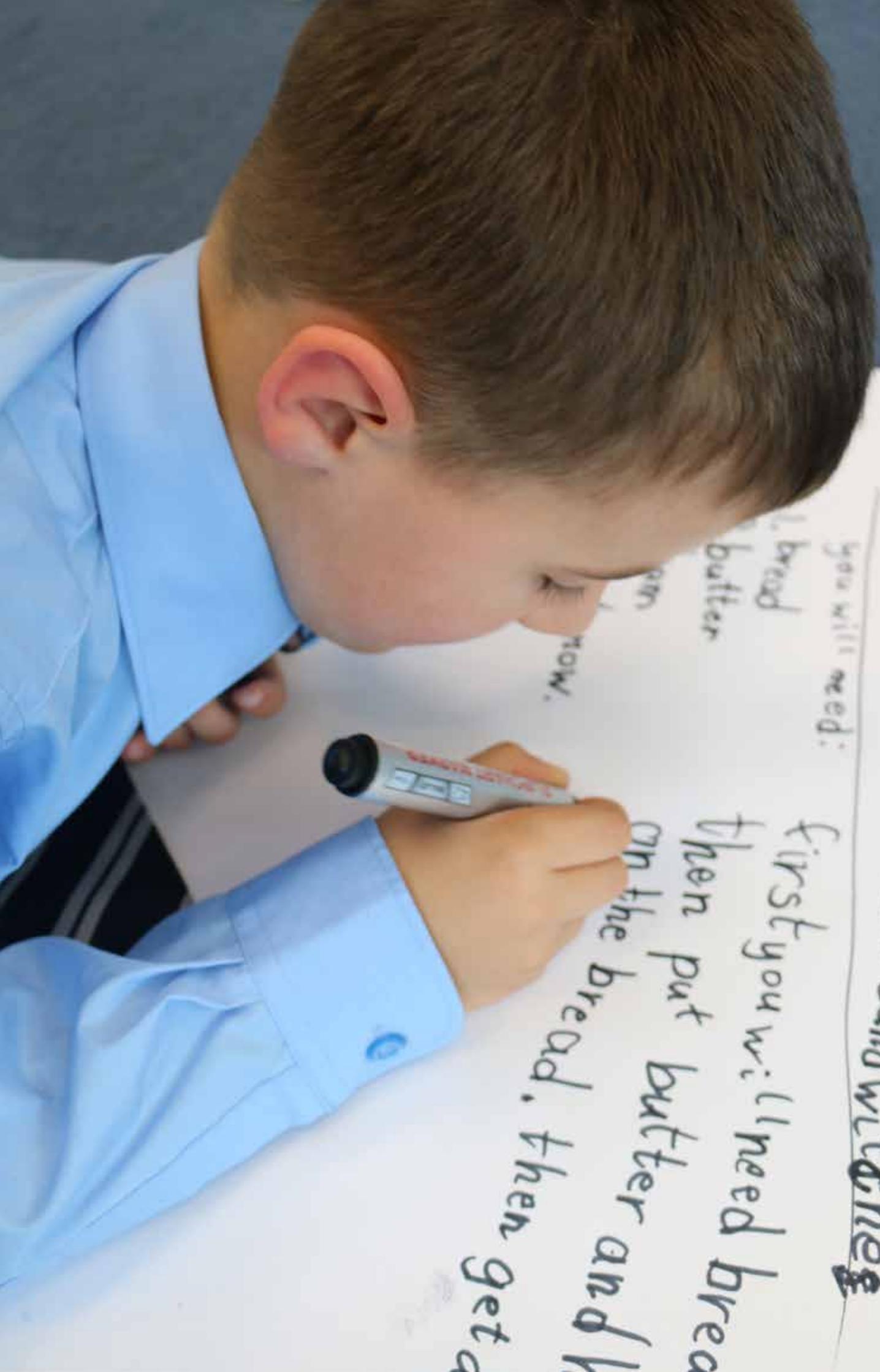
- 100 Year History Project
- Yeats Among School Children
- HSA Building Safety
- I am, I have, I can
- The Kindness Project
- Smarter Travel
- Transition Project

how to make a ham sandwich these

you will need:

1. bread
butter

first you will need bread
then put butter and ham
on the bread. then get a



100 YEAR HISTORY PROJECT

The 100-Year History Project is a creative commemoration project, engaging children and teachers from 12 schools in Ireland and Northern Ireland with the Decade of Commemorations, through research and creative activity alongside a professional artist and writer. The project is phased to encompass child-led research, exploring the wider political events of the decade 1912-22 through the lens of local and family histories. Phase 1 of the project has been funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs through the Reconciliation Fund.

The project aims to -

- Engage children with the decade of commemorations through child-led research and creative activity alongside a professional artist and writer.
- Create a cross-border network between 12 schools north and south, and provide opportunities for dialogue and sharing of ideas and approaches through the project.
- Challenge received myths and perceptions around historical events from 1912-22, and break the culture of silence surrounding these events.
- Support a way of working that involves children as action researchers within their own communities and that recognises the transformative value of the arts for breaking down cultural barriers.
- Develop a strong interagency cross-border partnership between Kids' Own, the Association of Teacher Education Centres in Ireland, and Belfast Education & Library Board, as a solid framework within which to support work with children & young people in educational settings.
- Make a unique commemorative book publication to provide a legacy that promotes children's inclusion in commemorations, and the power of the child's voice to challenge the perceptions of adults.
- Bring together over 300 children and adults from Ireland and Northern Ireland for a high-profile launch of the 100-Year History book publication

Artists and Schools involved in 2015/2016

Artist - Ann Donnelly

Writer - Mary Branley

Schools

Northampton National School, Kinvara, Co. Galway
Lahey Primary School, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone
Inchicore Primary School, NS, Dublin 10
Hazelwood Integrated Primary School, Belfast
Lisnafunchin National School, Kilkenny
Gaelscoil na bhFàl, Falls Road, Belfast
Nicker National School, Old Pallas, Co. Limerick
Holy Rosary Primary School, Belfast
Annsborough Integrated PS, Castlewellan, Co. Down
St Joseph's Boys National School, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan
Glenwood Primary School, Shankill Road, Belfast
St Brigid's National School, Haddington Road, Dublin 4

Teacher

Shane McDonagh
Siobhan Coleman
Gemma Kenny
David Burgess
Conor Doyle
Catherine Mcparland
Siobhán English
Sarah Campbell
Lynda Brown
Linda O'Sullivan
Kathryn Connolly
Natalie Leyden

Link to project website - <http://100yearhistory.com/>



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Kids' Own is committed to using online technology as a tool for creativity and exchange between artists and children.

Interventions of this kind, particularly in our formative years, are the special experiences that we cherish and remember most vividly and whose deep impression endures long into our future lives. Virtually There is discovering compelling new ways to engage this generation of young people in the arts; an engagement that has every chance of continuing to grow into a lifelong enthusiasm. We are proud to be associated with it.

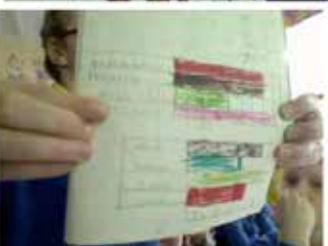
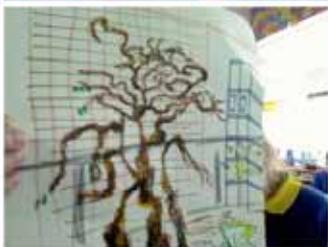
*Roisín McDonough
Chief Executive
Arts Council of Northern Ireland*

Key programmes 2015/2016

- Virtually There
- Write Here

Online partners in 2015/2016

- ACNI
- C2KNI
- ATECI
- Belfast Education and Library Board



VIRTUALLY THERE

Over eight years, Virtually There has evolved from an experimental pilot project that connected one artist and one school, into an unparalleled model of engagement between artists, children and teachers in schools across Northern Ireland, through the use of virtual technologies. Eight years on, the project continues with thanks to ongoing funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and, with additional funding from the Arts Council's Touring & Dissemination of Work Award in 2014, piloted two residencies in the ROI. Kids' Own aims in 2015/2016 to further develop Virtually there in Northern Ireland and in ROI. We aim to build on the work achieved through the pilot phase and extend the reach and impact of this work.

Artists and Schools involved in 2015/2016

| Artists | Teachers | Schools |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Ann Henderson | Judith White | Ballydown PS, Banbridge, Co. Down |
| Ann Donnelly | Marcella Wilson | Donaghey PS, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone |
| Sharon Kelly | Eimear Crummy | St. Patricks Crossmaglen, Co. Down |
| Maree Hensey | Alison Brown | Bocombra PS, Portadown, Co. Armagh |
| Andrew Livingstone | Vanessa Patton | Strandtown PS, Belfast, Co. Down |
| Julie Forester | Tony Boyle | Our Lady of Lourdes PS, Belfast, Co. Down |
| Naomi Draper | Laura Brehon | Marist NS, Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim |
| Ruby Wallis | Ann Kelliher | Raheen NS, Killarney, Co. Kerry |
| Vanya Lambrecht Ward | Maire O'Connell | Ardfert NS, Ardfert, Co. Kerry |

In 2016 Kids' Own aims to work with DIT to draw out the learning from Virtually There. This work will examine the relational process between participants in the Virtually There project. Specifically it will focus on the development of the tri-party relationship over time from initiation, to establishment, to maintenance and where appropriate, to termination. The relational constructs embedded within the structure of the relationship will also be examined to determine the factors that influence the progression and evolution of the relationship. Assessments of this will identify the stressors within the relationship as well as the accelerators responsible for driving the creative exchange forward. To complement this, the process of value co-creation will also be explored from the perspectives of the three parties involved. Understanding how multi-party creative relationships work allows for improved assessment of best practice which can then be transferred to other projects in both an online and offline capacity. Research will be conducted using a mixed methodology involving an initial netnography approach followed thereafter by a narrative approach. The sample will be census based, capturing all participants involved in the the Virtually There experience.

Examples of journals

<https://projects.kidsown.ie/donaghey-ps-class-blog/>
<https://projects.kidsown.ie/home/ballydown-ps/>
<https://projects.kidsown.ie/ballydown-ps-artistblog/?p=693>

Link to Virtually There publication

http://issuu.com/practice.ie/docs/vt_book/1

Link to teacher/child videos

<https://vimeo.com/user3630003/videos>



Aim 2:

DISSEMINATION & RECOGNITION

Improve recognition of children's own work and ideas

Currently, in Ireland, there is a systematic dismissal of the creative contribution of children and an accepted, unchallenged lack of recognition for children's importance as active cultural agents within their communities and society as a whole. Kids' Own works for a wider recognition of the creative participation of all children in Ireland by publishing work by children to a wider audience. In 2015/2016 Kids' Own will publish 6 new titles by children.

Our partnership with national agencies, such as the Health & Safety Authority, supports a culture of valuing the child's voice and its power in influencing adult behaviour. The farm safety, ocean safety, and building safety book and multimedia projects have been large national collaborative projects that respond to this ethos. Other similar initiatives with Go Dungarvan Smarter Travel ('I can taste the rain' book project) and Kilkenny Education Centre & Kilkenny Childcare Committee ('Starting School') give credence to children's voices and experiences.

Key Activity

- Publishing with children and young people
- Touring

Key programmes 2015

- 100 Year History project
- The Kindness project
- Yeats Among School Children
- I am I have I can
- Building Safety
- Smarter Travel
- Transition project

Key publications 2015/16

- I can taste the rain
- Starting School
- The Magic Within
- Bouncing Away
- Kindness project
- Enter at your own risk!



TRANSITION PROJECT

Starting School

In 2015 Kids' Own launched *Starting School*, a new book by 4 and 5 year old children in Kilkenny. This publication was a result of a partnership with Kilkenny County Childcare Committee and Kilkenny Education Centre. This book programme is about supporting young children in the transition to primary school.

Artist and writer collaborated with junior infants in four schools in County Kilkenny. The children had the opportunity to creatively explore their experience of transition from preschool and early childhood care and education settings. They gathered their thoughts and advice to pass on to new children starting school and illustrated their ideas through artwork during the sessions.

Kids' Own brought the children's work together into a new book which was launched in May 2015 and aims to support other children through this very important transition in their lives.

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| Artist | Schools |
| Orla Kenny | St. Canice's NS Presentation NS |
| Writer | Castlecomer GNS Wandesford NS |

It isn't often we have the privilege of really listening to children. When we do listen, it can be hard to hear what children have to say about things that matter to them like starting 'big school'. In this book, Kilkenny Education Centre and Kilkenny County Childcare Committee have consulted with the experts. Who better to offer advice on beginning primary school ... than 4-and 5-year old children for whom it is a recent and very real experience!

Starting School is written by children for children as well as for parents, pre-school practitioners, teachers and others who support children in their early learning journey. This beautifully presented book reminds us, in the words of Loris Malaguzzi, that each child has 'a hundred languages, a hundred hands, a hundred thoughts, a hundred ways of thinking, of playing, of speaking'. There are at least a hundred messages in this book whatever your purpose as a reader. From children's great sense of wonder and surprise ('my brain works well') to the importance of relationships and a positive outlook ('I was scared of all the friends that I didn't know'), the wisdom of children's words remained with me long after I closed the book. Well done to the children, their teachers, and all involved in creating such a rich and unique contribution to our understanding of young children and their lives, as they continue their learning journey into primary school.

Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick - Deputy CEO, NCCA

Link to article

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/children-s-advice-to-those-just-starting-school-1.2339338>

I was scared of all the
friends that I didn't know.



I AM, I HAVE, I CAN

Bouncing Away

What makes children happy? What are their coping strategies within their daily lives? And how should they be supported to develop as resilient individuals?

Kids' Own, in partnership with the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the Psychology Service (PCCC) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, began a collaborative book project with young people in County Sligo exploring children's mental health and promoting children's wellbeing.

The Bouncing Away book project engaged children aged 8-12 from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Sligo, and the Psychology Service, Markievicz House, Sligo, over an 8-week period from October to December 2014. The artists also worked with school children at St. Edward's National School on a weekly basis over the same time period.

The project aimed to address the gap in provision of self-created child/ youth publications about mental health; provide an opportunity for children/ young people engaged in Sligo mental health services to work with professional artists; promote and celebrate children's wellbeing and build mental health awareness at local and national level; and increase the visibility of children's art work and writing through a new publication that gives voice to the interests, challenges and needs of children living in Ireland.

Funded through the Mental Health Services, HSE Northwest, this project resulted in the creation of a new publication, Bouncing Away, which will be launched October 29th 2015.

Artist

Vanya Lambrecht Ward

Writer

Lisa Vandergrift Davala

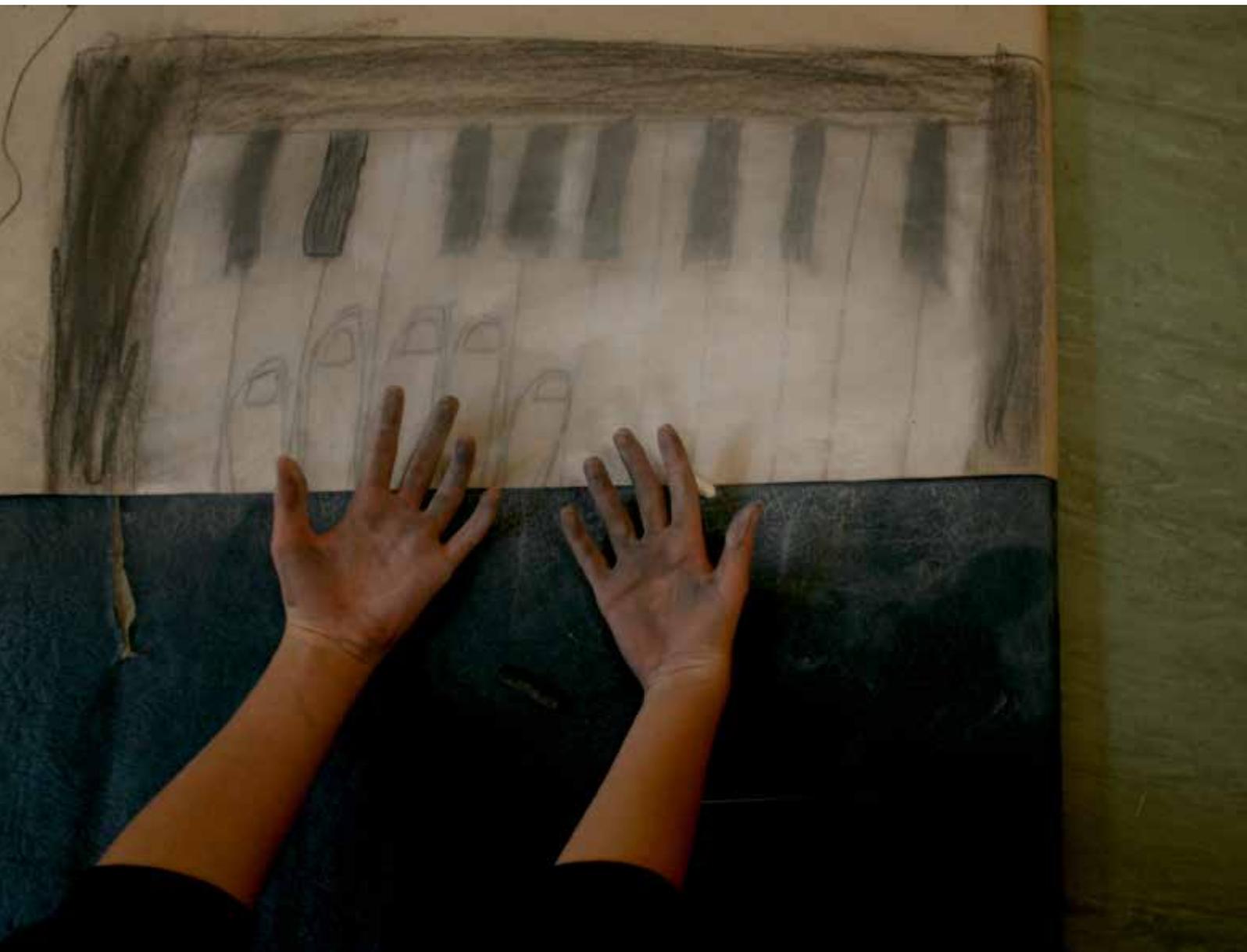
Partners

Child Adolescent Mental Health Service

Sligo Community Psychology Service

School

St. Edwards NS Sligo



When I feel happy I put on music and dance to it. I eat sweets and listen to music. I punch my pillow when annoying people make me angry. This happens when my brother annoys me. When I am loved I think about it. My family make me feel loved and I day dream about it. When I am lonely I play and pet my guinea pig. I text my friends.

Hermoine

Aim 3:

QUALITY & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Kids' Own creates opportunities for professionals who support and nurture children to develop their own practice working with children and young people.

A core aim of Kids' Own is to promote excellence and support artists and other professionals working with children, to raise awareness of the value of the arts in the lives of children and young people and professionalise arts practice working with children.

Key Programmes

- Practice.ie
- Arts and Education Portal

Events 2015/2016

- Create and Helium professional learning event
- Summer course for teachers in Kilkenny
- National Arts & Education Portal National Day
- National Arts and Education online events
- Professional learning days for artists and practitioners as part of ongoing projects
- Teaching Artist Conference Scotland, August 2016

Publications/Reports

- Research of Virtually There
- Teacher resources
- Arts in Education Portal content development plan



ARTS IN EDUCATION PORTAL

Kids' Own are delighted to be leading the development of the Arts and Education Portal. Since its launch in May 2015, the Arts in Education Portal has been developing as a new space where both artists and teachers can be supported and inspired. Analytics show that the site has had nearly 10,000 visits since it went live on 19th May.

As we continue to develop this space, we are becoming more aware of the needs of the sector and the kinds of supports that are needed to continue developing practice and supporting a strong ethos of arts in education practice across the sector.

The launch of the Portal marked a very significant step in terms of having one space where practice with artists, children and teachers in schools is profiled. This marks a beginning point, from which to build the community and to support artists and teachers to build their skills in reflecting and documenting their practice. As a window for the charter, the Portal also represents an opportunity to reflect on key developments within the sector. With this in mind, our commissioning plan for 2015/2016 includes new projects & partnerships; critical essays, online talks; resource videos, events, as well as the development of the Directory of local/ national activity and the Reading Room.

Our proposed National Arts in Education Week in May 2016, will mark the end of the Portal's first year and provides a strong opportunity to promote the Portal and its role in supporting the development of the sector, moving into its second year.





Aim 4:

BUILDING INTERNAL CAPACITY

Ensure Kids' Own has the internal capacity to achieve its aims.

Robust governance

Kids' Own is a company limited by guarantee. It does not have a share capital. It is a registered charity. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association, which was last amended at our AGM on May 15th 2015. Kids' Own are in compliance with the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland 2015.

Board development 2015/2016

The Kids' Own Board is governed by a board of directors. Board members serve as non-executive directors and do not receive any remuneration for their work. The board meets at least 4 times a year and is responsible for all business of the organisation while the day to day management is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and Kids' Own staff team. In 2015 Kids' Own inducted three new members to the Kids' Own Board, Maria Corbett and Jean Webster stepped down. Gert Ackerman was re-appointed to the Kids' Own Board.

Kids' Own board 2015

Gert Ackermann, Chair - The Wheel

Nikita White - Advocacy Manager, Unicef

Irene Lawlor - Communications Manager, Barnardos

Siofra Kilcullen (incoming) - Sligo County Council

Company growth since 2012-2015

The work of Kids' Own has grown exponentially over the past three years. Our turnover has increased from €121,000 in 2012, to €145,000 in 2013, to €255,254 in 2014, and with a projected turnover of €256,500 in 2015. While we developed and managed 8 projects in 2012, in 2015 we are currently managing 18 projects at national and local level. Our vision is for a company structure that allows us to continue delivering a wide range of national and international projects, while also being able to develop an evidence base to underpin and to further our strategic aims for dissemination and building the sectoral impact of our work.

Company development

Kids' Own's ambition is to continue to grow. To manage this level of extraordinary growth Kids' Own need to increase its staffing to strengthen our core company structure. Since 2013 Kids' Own has outsourced key areas of work on a contract basis, namely - accounts (2 days/month), digital marketing (1 day/week), IT and Web support (1 day/month) Design (on a project by project basis). In 2015/2016 Kids' Own require a new administrative staff member. This new member will provide our existing team - The CEO and the project manager - time to focus on our strategic vision for a wider recognition of the creative participation of children, namely conducting research and a feasibility study with Sligo County Council to explore the feasibility of a cultural centre for children in the North West.

Communications 2015

In 2015 Kids' Own secured sustained broadcast, online and print media interest. Particularly around the Arts in Education Portal launch and the Starting School book.

'How do we help our children process the emotional and intellectual challenges they will encounter through the first year of their primary-school life? Starting School: Feeling Good About Primary School, a new publication by Kids' Own Publishing, was created with these challenges in mind.'

- Sara Keating, The Irish Times

'These young writers have succeeded in developing an action-packed plot, full of suspense.'

- Review of Rebellion in the Village, The Looking Glass magazine

Booksellers

Kids' Own titles are now being sold in 11 bookshops and arts venues in Dublin, Sligo, Leitrim, Kilkenny, Waterford, Derry and Down. Bookshops include Eason, The Book Centre and Dubray Books.

Reviews

The Lullaby Project. Review by Amanda Jane Graham on Shannonside's The Arts Hour (28 January 2015)

Rebellion in the Village. Review by Emily Daly in The Looking Glass (a magazine dedicated to children's literature) <http://bit.ly/17L2KcF>

Media coverage

The Story House (Culture Night). Feature article in the Sligo Weekender and coverage in the Sligo Champion Starting School. Feature by Sara Keating, "Children's advice to those just starting school" in The Irish Times (Sept 2015). <http://bit.ly/1LAWC9q>

The book was also covered by Kilkenny press.

Arts in Education Portal. The launch at Dublin Castle in May 2015 was attended by over 300 people. John Coolahan's article "A portal to the future of the arts in education" featured in The Irish Times. <http://bit.ly/1L4VHci>

The role of Kids' Own in developing the Portal was covered by the Sligo Weekender and the Sligo Champion.

Too Cold for Sharks. Two feature articles in Marine Times (January 2015) and the spring edition of environmental magazine Sherkin Comment. The book was extensively covered by national and regional press following its launch in December 2014.

The Looking Glass magazine interviewed writer Mary Branley about her work with Kids' Own.

Case study

Bouncing Away. Featured as the October case on [artsandhealth.ie](http://www.artsandhealth.ie), the national website for arts and health in Ireland, to coincide with International Mental Health Day on 10 October. <http://www.artsandhealth.ie/case-studies/bouncing-away/>

