



KILLARNEY

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SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Family Brochure

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Killarney School of English

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Killarney School of English

Welcome

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 in the National Park, visit places of historical interest or take tours of the Kerry, Dingle and Beara Peninsulas.

Whatever way you wish to organise 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



Nicola Bradwell,
Feargal Courtney, Luke & David.

Killarney School of English

Adults



The School



Our main school for adults, which is based in Muckross, is a friendly, peaceful and comfortable place to study as it is more like a home than a school. We understand that many parents don't wish to be taught in an environment that reminds them of their teenage years. They would prefer to have more individual attention and to learn in a more relaxed environment. That is why class sizes are small, between 1 and 6 students from September to June and between 6 and 10 students from July to August. The maximum number of students in any adult class is 10. The maximum capacity of the adult schools is 40.

Because of the small class sizes, teachers are able to give greater attention to individual students and to find material which is much better suited to the class as a whole.

Perhaps you are interested in studying in the afternoons while your children are doing activities. In that case, there is a borrowing library, self-study area, internet access and wifi for those who wish to bring their own laptops. We also have a free bike lending facility at the school if you decide you would prefer to explore the national park instead or transportation into town if you'd like to wander around Killarney. A bus runs daily between the teenage and the adult school so you can even meet up with your teenagers for lunch if they are not doing activities and spend the afternoons together enjoying the sights.



The Courses

Killarney School of English can offer you a choice of three different full-time courses.

GE1: 15 hours of General English per week in a group

GE2: 30 hours of General English per week in a group

GE3: 15 hours of General English in a group + 15 hours afternoon activities per week (Easter and Summer only)

ONE-TO-ONE COURSES (PRIVATE TUITION)

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 specialised such as pronunciation practice, business, medical or legal English.

END OF COURSE

At the end of your course you will receive a certificate stating your level, topics covered and attendance dates.



Killarney School of English

Adults



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. Most 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 TEFL teachers, with Masters degrees in TESOL and 35 years of teaching experience between them.

Our secretary, is also a qualified teacher with 10 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. Our activity coordinator, is also a qualified teacher who teaches with us in the mornings.



Testing & Levels

Once you have applied to the school you will be asked to complete a 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. This assessment is based on your performance in the three main skill areas of writing, vocabulary and grammatical awareness.

In the summer we are able to offer you 6 different levels of English Language tuition from Beginner to Advanced.



Course Curriculum

At the school we understand that the main objective for the majority of students who come to us during the summer 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. That is why our curriculum follows a communicative approach, communication being the end goal for all language learning. The methodology then emphasises the use of role-play, situational dialogues, discussion and games to increase confidence and improve fluency.

However, reading, writing skills and grammar are also incorporated because all of them are to some extent necessary in supporting the act of communication; the reading helps to develop a solid vocabulary base, the writing to consolidate what has been learnt previously and the grammar to improve accuracy.

Killarney School of English

Adults



Class Timetable for GE1

Time	Class
10:00-11:20	General English Language Tuition
11:20-11:40	Break
11:40-1:00	General English Language Tuition
1:00-2:00	Lunch

If you are taking GE2 or GE3, afternoon classes/ activities will take place between 2:00 and 5:00pm



Activity Programme

During the summer Killarney School of English runs a variety of activity programmes for all age ranges. We have separate programmes for adults, teenagers or small children.

Typical activities include:

Jaunting Car Trip:

See Killarney National Park, & guided tour of Killarney Town/ coffee in Deenagh Lodge



Cycling around Muckcross Lake to Dinis

This is a very enjoyable activity which takes you into the National Park, past the Muckcross Abbey, Muckcross House, around Muckcross Lake and back past Torc Waterfall. It is not a difficult cycle route so don't worry if you haven't cycled for a long time!



Cookery workshop

cook your own Irish dish with Mark Doe – an internationally acclaimed chef

Traditional Music Pub Tour; learn how to play some typical Irish musical instruments in the company of two famous musicians from Riverdance

Irish Dancing

Why not return home with a few fancy Irish dancing steps. Your friends will be amazed at how good you are!

Killarney School of English

Adults



Visit to Muckross Abbey and House

You will love this romantic ruined Abbey set in the most beautiful heartland of the National Park. Muckross House is located just a few minutes walk further on and it will amaze you with its wonderful gardens and fabulous views over the Muckross Lake.

Visit to Muckross Traditional Farms

Why not take a trip back into the past and take a look at some old farmhouses from the 19th century. This replica village gives you a great insight into the way of life of local Irish people from that time.

Visit to Ross Castle and Inisfallen Island

Ross Castle is one of the most idyllic monuments in Killarney, set as it is on the shores of Lough Leane (Killarney's biggest lake). A short tour of the castle



will allow you to get an idea of the conditions and way of life of a typical Irish Celtic Chieftain. Inisfallen Island is just a short boat trip away and boasts some of Killarney's richest church ruins.

Visit to Tralee and Geraldine Museum

We are sure you will enjoy this trip to our local history museum in the heart of Tralee, the administrative centre of County Kerry. The Geraldine Museum contains fascinating exhibitions on a wide variety of topics and a journey back in time to the old streets and strange characters of Medieval Tralee

Visit to Millstreet Country Park.

For those of you who love nature, this is a must see. A small train will take you around the many varied sections of this wonderful country park, where you can delight in the abundant plant and animal life of Kerry.

Our activities are supervised by experienced team leaders who are English teachers themselves, giving you the opportunity to practice your English in a more relaxed and informal setting.

Saturday Day Trips

These include trips to Cork, Blarney, Glengariff, Garinish Island, the Ring of Kerry, and the Dingle Peninsula.

Killarney School of English

Children (3-12 years old)

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 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 organising 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 (Easter and 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.

Killarney School of English offers five levels:

Introductory 1: This level is mainly for the 3-5 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 6-7 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

Killarney School of English

Children (3-12 years old)



Children's Class Timetable for GE1

MONDAY - FRIDAY

10:00-10:40	General English Tuition
10:40-10:50	BREAKTIME
10:50-11:30	General English Tuition
11:30-11:50	BREAKTIME
11:50-1:00	Performance preparation (there will be a performance every Friday)
1:00-2:00	LUNCHTIME



If your children have enrolled on the GE3 programme, the activities will take place from 2-5pm.



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.



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 this jaunting car (horse and cart) ride around Killarney National Park, followed by playtime in Knockreer playground

Visit to Kennedy's Pet Farm

Children love this activity as it gives them the chance to touch and hold a whole variety of small animals, from baby cats, to lambs. They can even get a ride on a small pony.

Irish dancing

What better way to show off to friends and family when they go home, than to learn how to do a few Irish dance steps. You'll be amazed at how quickly they learn a whole dance!

Killarney School of English

Children (3-12 years old)



Every year children are delighted by the chance to get on horseback and to be led through the magnificent forests and fields of the National Park.

Drama

This very successful weekly activity which enables children to use the language they have been learning in class through role-play and acting. It is a fun and creative way for them to speak in English spontaneously and to improve those listening skills.



Arts and Crafts

There is nothing more special than seeing your child returning from class with something they have made such as a card or painting. That is why this is a weekly activity run by a specialised arts

and crafts shop in the centre of Killarney. Children have enjoyed making puppets, jewellery, masks, and cards and especially loved getting their faces painted!

Visit to Ross Castle and Inisfallen Island

This is a magical journey to one of the loveliest castles in Ireland on the banks of Lough Leane (Killarney's biggest lake) and then across the water in a small motor boat to the wonderful Inisfallen Island. On the island the children love to explore the old church ruins and follow the old path through ancient forests.



You can accompany your children on these activities if you wish provided you inform the secretary in advance and pay the cost of any additional entrance fees. It must be noted though that most of these activities would not be suitable for adults and there is adequate supervision by Killarney School of English staff on all activities.

Saturday Day Trips

The activity programme also includes a day trip every Saturday which is the same as that on the adult activity programme. Because of health and safety regulations, it is important that parents accompany any child under the age of 12.

Killarney School of English

Teenagers (13-17 years old)



Courses

What better way for your teenage child / children to improve their English and have the experience of a lifetime, than to enrol them on one of our teenage programmes. With over ten years of experience we know how to balance what parents want for their children and what teenagers enjoy. To ensure that teenagers 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 large sports hall for activities and end-of-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. They are therefore sensitive to the 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. 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.

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 and parents to move them up or down a level.

During the summer we run 5 levels for teenagers from Beginner to Advanced.

Killarney School of English

Teenagers [13-17 years old]



Class Timetable for GE1

MONDAY-FRIDAY	
10:00-11:20	General English Tuition
11:20-11:40	BREAKTIME
11:40-1:00pm	General English Tuition
1:00-2:00	LUNCHTIME

The timetable for the GE3 programme is the same as above but includes afternoon activities which run from 2:00-5:00pm.



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



In order to reinforce the communicative and fun aspect of the course, there is a performance at the end of the week during which each class sings a song or performs a role play or sketch and awards are given for the best performance. Teenagers love this chance to compete with each other and show off their dancing, singing and/or acting skills.



Activity Programme

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

Scavenger hunt around Killarney

This is a great fun outdoor activity which involves answering a questionnaire and searching for information around Killarney town. Teenagers love this and it gives them a good orientation around the town too.

Kayaking on Lough Leane

Enjoy this amazing afternoon of Kayaking on Killarney's most picturesque lake.

Killarney School of English

Teenagers [13-17 years old]



Gaelic football and Hurling

If your teenager loves sport this is a great activity for them. Not only does it test their physical abilities but allows them to experience and practice two uniquely Irish sports.

Cappoeira

Cappoeira workshop with Testa. Killarney's very own Cappoeira expert

Ball Sports

We hold a monthly Football World Cup competition as well as tag rugby instruction and play. We also play indoor and outdoor volleyball and basketball

Cycling around Muckross Lake

This great activity involves cycling through the National Park and visiting Muckross Abbey, Muckross House, Dinis Lake, the Meeting of the Waters and finally Torc Waterfall.



Jaunting car trip around town

Killarney prides itself on its services for tourists, and the jaunting cars and the jarveys that drive them form a big part of this service. Teenagers really love going back in time and experiencing this wonderful horse and cart trip around the town and the National Park. It also gives them an opportunity to take some great photos!



Day Trips

There is also a day trip on Saturdays included in the price; trips to Cork, Limerick, Dingle and the Gap of Dunloe.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer these activities on a pay- as- you-go basis because of difficulties in organisation and coordination, with the school being separate from the Muckross one. For that reason those teenagers who are staying in Killarney with their parents must decide prior to arrival whether they want to be on the activity programme or not.

Killarney School of English 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.



The Room

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.

A bathroom should be available to you everyday. Please check with the family as to the best time to use the bathroom, particularly in the mornings.

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



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.

Telephone

You should not use the host family's telephone and / or internet without permission. If you are allowed to make an outgoing call you must reverse the charges. You can, of course, receive phone calls from your family or friends.

Killarney School of English Accommodation



Self Catering Apartments & Holiday Homes

There is a wide range of self-catering apartments or holiday homes in Killarney available for students who wish to live more independently.

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...



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, booking early 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) 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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