



Educate Together

Captain Cillian Learning Adventures Primary Schools Programme

Case Study:	Educate Together, Primary School, Knocknacarra, Galway, Ireland.
Lead Teacher:	Margaret, First Class Teacher
Supported by Principal:	Matt Wallen
Class level:	1st Class
Student Group:	28 pupils in a class
Programme duration:	8 Weeks Literacy and Creativity Programme
Author:	Dr Carina Ginty

About Captain Cillian Learning Adventures:

Captain Cillian® is an Irish seafaring explorer who takes children on a learning adventure around Ireland. The books are packed with Irish and ocean facts, with key Irish words from the stories and their phonetic sounds. Readers get a real sense of the Irish coastline and what lies beneath and on the seashore. Learners' engage with four themes over an eight week programme including: Explore Ireland; Discover Ocean Facts; Learn Irish; Create and Play.

In 2018, Educate Together Primary School in Knocknacarra in Galway undertook an eight week literacy and creativity programme, piloting Captain Cillian Learning Adventures with the 1st class group. This case study describes the programme, the student engagement plan and the outputs and benefits to the learners.

"The books contain bright and engaging illustrations and they are a manageable size for children to hold comfortably."



Schools Programme Structure

8 weeks engagement plan:

Learning Objectives linked to Primary Language Curriculum 2015

1. Engagement

Take part in and enjoy listening to, reading and talking about the meaning and interpretation of written words and illustrations with others.

2. Motivation and Choice

Choose, read and talk about text in a range of genres for pleasure, interest and specific purposes.

3. Phonics and Word Recognition

Use phonic knowledge and a range of word identification strategies with flexibility and confidence when reading instructional and independent-level texts.

4. Reading Vocabulary

Use a range of vocabulary strategies and knowledge of synonyms, antonyms and homonyms, affixes and root words to clarify and discuss the meaning of unknown words and phrases as they arise.

5. Purpose, Genre, Voice

Experience and respond to the aesthetic, creative and imaginative aspects of text and a wider range of genres justifying preferences and opinions.

6. Sequencing and Summarising

Recall, discuss and sequence significant details and identify key points of information in text.

7. Comprehension

Draw on a repertoire of comprehension strategies flexibly and interchangeably to engage with the text.

8. Fluency and Self Correction

Read instructional and independent-level texts in a range of genres with fluency and understanding, and self-correct independently.



“ The Captain Cillian Adventure books were enjoyed by the children during the 8 week trial. They are best suited for use from Senior Infants to First Class and are a good resource for shared reading in small groups. The books contain bright and engaging illustrations and they are a manageable size for children to hold comfortably. The children found the stories interesting and they liked establishing connections between the characters in the different books. The children enjoyed the geographical references to areas of interest in Ireland, while also creating greater awareness and making connections to where in Ireland they live. ”

Margaret, First Class Teacher

Station Teaching

50 minute session

2 days a week

2 groups 25 minutes each

- Children worked in mixed ability groups w/ 6-8 children in each group.
- Group was teacher led.
- Children have a copy of the same Captain Cillian book each.
- Children explore the cover and skim through the book making predictions with a partner what adventures might occur.
- Children sit in a circle and share predictions with the group.
- Children begin to read the story in round robin turn taking.
- Teacher pauses the story to ask questions in order to assess comprehension and listening skills.
- Following the completion of the story the children discuss in pairs what they liked about the story and why and then share with the group.
- The children then find interesting facts in the book to share with the group. This is an opportunity for cross curricular learning with links to Science, Geography and the Learn Together Curriculum.



Additional Activities

- Children work in pairs to rewrite a story using a frame with four sections and room for illustration.
- Children sequence events in a story.
- Children create comprehension questions for their partner to answer.
- Children draw a picture of their favourite Captain Cillian Adventure book and write a sentence explaining why.
- Discussion on Gaeilge within the text and replacing words in the text with Gaeilge.



In May 2018, Captain Cillian was awarded an All Star Accreditation for Children's Education Through Irish. In 2017, Captain Cillian was a finalist for an all Ireland Marketing Award, top five Irish product ideas in Ireland.