



students learning with communities

CLiC News : A news website for children



CLiC News

CLiC news (www.clicnews.ie) is a collaboration between the DIT Access and Civic Engagement (ACE) Office at DIT and the School of Media at DIT. The ACE Office works with individuals and communities to help them reach their full educational potential. The School of Media at DIT runs a number of programs at undergraduate and postgraduate level in journalism, film and broadcasting and creative digital media. The CLiC News website is aimed at children aged between nine and twelve in the Primary school sector. Students on the B.A. in journalism at DIT supply content for the site as part of their web-based journalism module. The students are also the site Editors and work outside of class on both evenings and weekends making sure that the site is constantly updated. The site aims to both engage children in reading the news and also to help both their literacy and media literacy skills. Children are encouraged to interact with the stories by commenting, giving their own opinions and entering various competitions. The back-up for the site is provided by the Computers Learning in Communities (CLiC) Programme in the DIT ACE Office.

The Schools

Many of our schools are part of the DEIS network but some are not. Any Primary school can apply.

Children and CLiC News

Once a school signs up to CLiC News the pupils and teachers are given secure access via a password and access code. That way the site is a safe space in which children can access the internet. Within the site, news stories are written by the journalism students at a level which reflects the age range of the children, All the children's comments are moderated by a small group of volunteers with a teaching background. Comments are rewarded with stars, and teachers can also download the comments and use them to stimulate discussion or to improve writing skills. The site has gotten thousands of comments from the children who find the stories interesting and who like the fact that there is "something for everyone on the site" as one 11 year old said. "I love Clicnews because its never boring" was the view of a 12 year old user.





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DIT students and CLiC News

This project has proved hugely beneficial for those students who have participated in it. For example students refer to the fact that it gives them real experience of compiling online content aimed at a specific group. It also gives them an audience for their work. Students work on various stories across news, sports and features, thus enabling them to try out different reporting styles. The fact that they are assigned to news shifts also gives them experience of keeping to deadlines. Feedback from the students themselves include comments like, "I felt like a real journalist," "CLiC News gave me great experience of writing to deadlines", "I rediscovered my passion for sports journalism", "Once the children started to comment on my stories I got such a buzz."

The team behind CLiC News

Students from second year and fourth year on the B.A in journalism in DIT have all been involved in supplying the content for CLiC News. They do so under the guidance of their lecturer Kate Shanahan who is part of the School of Media teaching staff. Ian Roller and Daithi O'Broin from DIT ACE Office liaise with the Primary schools and DIT students, and provide technical back-up, and invaluable assistance.

