STORYBOARD STORYTELLING COMPETITION

BRIEF

1. Invitation

Irish primary schools are invited to enter the 2026-2027 FÍS Storyboard Storytelling competition.

Please note a max of 5 entries per school is permitted.

2. Eligibility

The FÍS Storyboard Storytelling Competition is open to all primary and special schools in the Republic of Ireland. Only storyboards created and produced by primary school pupils and their teacher(s) will be eligible, i.e., the storyboard must be the school's own original work. Please see details re. use of copyrighted material below and check out the copyright video on our website, fisfilmproject.ie to guide you as necessary in this and in your film-making endeavours.

3. Themes & Topics Criteria

Create a storyboard that is a visual interpretation of a story, a concept, a topic, a poem, or nursery rhyme. Suggested themes are as follows but not limited to:

a. Identity, Belonging and Community
b. Sustainability and Caring for the World
c. Digital Technology / Digital World
d. Voices and Perspectives
e. Local Stories / Folklore
f. Wellbeing and Relationships
g. Stories as Gaeilge
h. Curriculum relevant topic, e.g. environmental exploration, climate change, history, science, etc.
i. Adaptation of a traditional story / fairytale with a modern-day twist
j. Pupils' own original stories

4. Presentation of Storyboards

An A4 storyboard template is provided for your convenience and guide on the website. You may enlarge up to A3 size if preferred. We have also provided guidance on how to make your own A3 storyboard. Completed storyboards can be scanned or photographed for submission via the online entry form.

Schools are free to use a digital element or hand-drawn elements to comprise their storyboards, but it must be entirely the pupils' own work. Entries may incorporate drawing, symbols, photographs created by pupils, digital media, captions or multimodal approaches to support inclusive participation.

Please try to scan the storyboards (max 3) into 1 document, where possible, alternatively you may upload 3 separate images via the form.

Oide Tacú leis an bhFoghlaim Ghairmiúil i measc Ceannairí Scoile agus Múinteoirí Supporting the Professional Learning of School Leaders and Teachers
Institute of Art, Design + Technology Dún Laoghaire

Please ensure the entry has the Story Title on each of the pages.

5. Storyboard/Script Page/Word Count Limit

Each storyboard page submitted should have only 6 frames per page. Typically storyboard templates have 6 frames per page. You are advised to select a short story, topic, or poem that can be visually communicated in no more than 3 storyboard pages (i.e. 18 frames).

6. Class Involvement Criteria

Entries will be accepted from whole class or small groups, (not individual children please). The entries will be categorised into the following 4 groups for judging purposes:

- Junior & Senior Infants
- 1st & 2nd classes
- 3rd & 4th classes
- 5th & 6th classes

7. Submission Form

Each school **must** complete the online entry form available from www.fisfilmproject.ie and submit a photograph or scan of the storyboards by one of the methods outlined on the form. To complete the online form you will need:

- Roll Number, School Name & Address
- Contact details (email/phone)
- Storyboard Details (Title, Classes involved)
- Storyboards for each entry scanned and in one doc preferably (word, pdf, jpeg, etc) ready to attach to your submission
  OR
- Individual Storyboards images (max. 3 per entry) ready for upload individually via the online form.

Online entries are preferred. However, postal entries may be sent directly to **Christina Reynolds, FÍS Office, Media Cube, IADT, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin A96 KH79.** Please note original artwork/storyboard cannot be returned to schools. You may submit photocopies if you prefer to keep the original(s).

8. Multiple Submissions

Up to 5 entries may be submitted by a school. You should submit one entry at a time. Once you have submitted your first storyboard entry then the online system will return you to the entry form so you can make another submission if desired.

9. Deadline

Complete entries no later than **5pm on Monday 21st December 2026**.

10. Copyrighted material

Storyboards must be the original work of the participating pupils, with support from their teacher(s). Pupils should create their own drawings, illustrations, photographs, characters and scripts wherever possible.

Do not use copyrighted images, logos, film or television stills, book illustrations, song lyrics or other material without the appropriate licence or permission. Material being freely available online or used for

educational purposes does not automatically mean it can be copied.

For further guidance, please refer to Creative Commons licensing.

No AI use is acceptable in the creation of storyboards

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Judging Panel

The judging panel for the FÍS Storyboard Storytelling comprises individuals with expertise in the areas of education and film. The judges will be impartial. The decision of the judges is final. Announcement re. winners will be made by end of January 2027.

2. Criteria

When reviewing storyboards submitted to the competition, judges will consider the following:

- Excellence in visual interpretation of a story or concept or topic
- Excellence in the use of artistic media e.g. a variety of art materials, copyright free images, etc.
- Imagination and creativity
- Curricular relevance
- Support of pupils' literacy skills development and enhanced learning
- Use of different types of shots, i.e. close-ups, mid-shots, long-shots, etc. that help to convey the story
- Evidence of pupil ideas and creative ownership.
- Evidence of collaborative planning and shared creative contribution.
- Evidence that the Storyboards could be developed in the future by the class or group into a FÍS film or stop-motion animation project for entry into the 22nd Annual FÍS Film Awards competition 2027.

3. Award Categories

Awards may be made across a variety of categories within the age/school level category outlined above.

4. Queries

Queries may be directed to fisfilm@iadt.ie