

LAI School Libraries Group

Terms of Reference

Mission

We believe that every school in Ireland should be provided with adequate and appropriate resources for a school library, run by a qualified librarian. We believe that the library is where each student will have guided access to a wide and diverse range of material in print and digital formats for learning, literacy, research and reading for pleasure. The library should be a dynamic learning space central to the school community and a safe space for personal development and general wellbeing.

Purpose of the School Libraries Group

Our purpose for individual members:

- To provide up-to-date information and resources.
- To facilitate networking opportunities for members working in the school library sector via our mailing list, meetings and conferences.
- To provide support and advice to school library staff, volunteers, teachers and anyone else who engages in library related activities and/or is involved in managing a school library
- To organise conferences and events which support those who work in school libraries in Ireland.
- To provide relevant training events and encourage members to avail of CPD organised by the SLG and certified by the LAI.

Our purpose in representing School Librarians as a whole:

- To promote and strengthen the standing of school librarians and advocate for the profession where necessary
- To build awareness of the School Librarian's role, in reading promotion, teaching and learning, information and media literacy, curriculum support, arts and culture and wellbeing
- To raise awareness of the value of school libraries within the library and educational sector and support school library activities.
- To lobby the government on behalf of Irish school libraries and to advocate for the need for school libraries with qualified librarians in every primary and post-primary school in Ireland.
- To promote best practice in school libraries.
- To provide a public voice for school libraries and school library staff.
- To promote literacy and reading for pleasure activities such as the Great Reads Awards.
- To collaborate with other LAI groups and to encourage other LAI members to join or be involved with the School Libraries Group.

Background

The LAI School Libraries Group has evolved from what was the School Library Association in the Republic of Ireland (SLARI). SLARI was a branch of the UK School Library Association from 2000 to 2021. SLARI was officially dissolved in June 2021, and the LAI School Libraries Group was formed.

Focus

- School libraries in Ireland.
 - Funding for school libraries, support for school libraries, school libraries for all schools, lobbying, representation
- School librarians and those who work in the school library sector
 - Advice, support, CPD, networking

Meetings

The School Libraries Group will hold an Annual General Meeting for all members in May of each year.

Annual General Meeting

- Held in May of each year (unless in exceptional circumstances).
- Secretary to send notice to members at least 21 days in advance.
- Membership to receive agenda in advance.
- Committee Officers provide annual reports.
- Minutes of the previous year's AGM approved.
- Presentation of the accounts and balances by the Treasurer.
- New committee and Officers elected for upcoming year.
- Quorum for an AGM is ten members.

Special General Meeting

- Can be called by the committee or by five members of the School Libraries Group.
- Membership must be given 21 days' notice.
- Membership to be given agenda in advance.
- Quorum for a Special General Meeting is ten members.

First Special General Meeting – September 2021

- Official election of new Officers and Committee
- Adoption of School Libraries Group Policy Statement to replace SLARI Policy Statement 2016

Membership

Membership of the Group is open to school library staff, teachers, library volunteers and anyone interested in its mission.

Officers and Committee Members

Membership of the Committee is open to any personal member of the Library Association of Ireland. The Committee will be responsible for organising activities for the benefit of the Group and its members.

The Committee will comprise the honorary positions of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, officer roles and some members of the group.

The committee will meet at least six times per year.

Links with Other Groups

Links with other groups will be explored. Collaboration could help the Group achieve its mission and provide valuable support to school libraries.

Finance

- The Treasurer of the group is responsible for the receipt and payment of monies, the keeping of books of accounts and the presenting of same as required.
- The Treasurer will liaise with any financial institutions on behalf of the committee
- The Treasurer must audit the Group's annual accounts in keeping with LAI practices
- The Treasurer will prepare an annual financial report for the Group's AGM, which will be made available to all members. This report shall, subsequently, be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer of the Association.

Agreed January 2022