# Press Release

# ForasNaGaeilge.jpg

# *Scríobh Leabhar* going from strength to strength

 **9 June 2016**

At an event on Tuesday 7 June in the Áisaonad in St. Mary’s College Belfast awards were presented to some of the 1500 pupils from Northern Ireland who created, designed and published their own books in Irish as part of the Foras na Gaeilge *Scríobh Leabhar* (*Write a Book)* project. Pupils from 17 schools in Northern Ireland took part in *Scríobh Leabhar* this year and they wrote their own stories in Irish on many subjects. *Scríobh Leabhar* is organised in Northern Ireland through the Áisaonad with Foras na Gaeilge. The presentation was made by Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh, Chief Executive of Foras na Gaeilge.

In all this year 141 schools and 9,461 children took part in the project and 6,300 books were written. There will be other events similar to this ceremony in other areas in coming weeks to celebrate pupils’ achievement throughout the country. Foras na Gaeilge organises the *Scríobh Leabhar* project in conjunction with some of the Education Centres: Mayo Education Centre, Clare Education Centre, West Cork Education Centre, West Dublin Education Centre, Carrick-on-Shannon Education Centre, Laois Education Centre, Tralee Education Centre, Kilkenny Education Centre and Gort an Choirce Teachers’ Centre in Donegal.

More than 45,000 pupils have taken part in the *Scríobh Leabhar* project since its inception in the 2006/2007 school year. Not only do the pupils write their own books as part of this project, they also have the opportunity to read and discuss stories of children from other schools. This initiative gives children an exciting opportunity to express their feelings through Irish. As well as that, it fosters cooperation between school communities and pupils are made aware of the concept of peer review and in particular it fosters creativity and a holistic approach in the development of the child. The teachers have a central role as well in *Scríobh Leabhar* and they are given an inservice course to help them assist the pupils in their efforts.

“This is a great opportunity for children to enjoy the Irish language and at the same time to show their imagination,” said Aedín Ní Bhroin, Director of the Irish Language Books Programme, Foras na Gaeilge. “They write about all kinds of subjects, from their holidays with their family, their adventures with their friends, their pets and the world through their own eyes. Not only does this project let them create their own book, both writing and illustrating it, but it is also a great way of fostering in them confidence in their Irish language ability”, she said.

“Our aim is for children to be writing and speaking Irish from an early age and this project promotes that objective in an effective and efficient way. *Scríobh Leabhar* has gone from strength to strength in the last ten years since its start. A great deal has been achieved, having influenced 45,000 children who have taken part in the last ten years”, said Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh, Foras na Gaeilge CEO. “We are grateful to the Áisaonad and all the centres for participating. They are to be praised, and the pupils and teachers especially are to be praised for the great success of the project,” he said.

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**Further information and photographs available by contacting:**

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