



Date: 03/10/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Sonairte calls for meaningful climate action at COP26

As part of the global citizens movement for climate action Sonairte are hosting a COP26 Children's Art Exhibition. We invite children from both primary and secondary schools across Louth, Meath and Fingal to submit a drawing, painting or other art work representing their reflections, hopes or fears for the future and what they wish to see as the outputs from COP26.

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, will be held in Glasgow, Scotland between 31st October and 12th November 2021. COP stands for "conference of the parties" meaning a meeting of the governing body of an international convention, in this case the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Each COP is composed of representative of all Parties and accredited observers to the convention. Every 5 years the UNFCCC parties try to agree to a new set of actions to address climate change. COP26 will follow on from the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015).

It is the first time in 5 years that global agreements can be made to address the climate crisis and avert climate catastrophe. The latest IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) Report called for massive and immediate cuts in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions if we are to avoid devastating environmental effects <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

COP26 is a focus for action and an opportunity for ordinary citizens to put pressure on our governments to take action now. The voice of children and young people - those who will face the brunt of inaction - carries immense moral weight.

The closing date for entries is 20th October and entries will be collected from participating schools by prior arrangement. All entries will be judged by a panel of Judges and shortlisted entries will form the basis of an Exhibition open to the public in the Long Hall of Sonairte from Sunday 7th to Sunday 14th November. A prize giving will take place on Friday 12th November at 6pm hosted by Peter Donegan from Peter Donegan Garden Design. In 2019, Peter designed 'The Perennial Garden' at the RHS Flower Show Cardiff winning silver and in 2020 was accepted to design at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

For further details please email cop26art@sonairte.ie

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