

# LITERACY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

# MISSION STATEMENT

**THE LITERACY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND (LAI) AIMS TO SUPPORT AND INFORM THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITERACY, ENCOURAGE THEM IN REFLECTION AND DIALOGUE, CHALLENGE THEM IN THEIR PRACTICE AND GIVE PUBLIC VOICE TO THEIR CONCERNS.**

## **THE AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO:**

- (i) provide a coherent voice on the acquisition, teaching and learning of all aspects of literacy in English and Gaeilge;
- (ii) encourage the development of literacy at all educational levels from early childhood through adolescence to adult level;
- (iii) foster an interest in and love of reading in all its forms;
- (iv) promote an interest in children's literacy at national and international levels;
- (v) stimulate, promote and conduct research on literacy at national and local levels;
- (vi) study the various factors that influence progress in literacy;
- (vii) publish, where possible, the results of pertinent and significant investigations and practices in relation to literacy;
- (viii) to assist or advise on the development of literacy-related module in teacher education programmes ;
- (ix) act as a clearing house for information related to literacy;
- (x) disseminate knowledge helpful in the solution of problems related to literacy.



## **IN PURSUIT OF THESE AIMS, THE ASSOCIATION ENGAGES IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AS:**

- (i) advocating to shape national policy on literacy;
- (ii) organising conferences, seminars, symposia, webinars and workshops to disseminate research and best practice in literacy;
- (iii) publishing conference proceedings and a newsletter *Literacy News*;
- (iv) maintaining a website and archive, [www.literacyireland.com](http://www.literacyireland.com);
- (v) making information about literacy development available to parents;
- (vi) maintaining links with and contributing to the activities of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the Federation of European Literacy Associations (FELA);
- (vii) maintaining links with national organisations, such as the Department of Education and Skills, the Teaching Council, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, the Education Centres, colleges, universities and teacher unions;
- (viii) supporting student research through the biennial *Outstanding Thesis Awards*;
- (ix) supporting children's literature through the biennial *LAI Book Awards*;
- (x) supporting teacher research and school development through the LAI Literacy Development Awards for Schools.



## **THE ASSOCIATION ALSO SEEKS TO ACHIEVE ITS AIMS THROUGH THE WORK OF REGIONAL BRANCHES. THE REGIONAL BRANCHES, WHICH WORK UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, ENGAGE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AS:**

- (i) organising symposia, seminars, workshops, webinars and presentations on the development of literacy;
- (ii) developing membership at local level;
- (iii) promoting the dissemination of current best practice in research in literacy, including practitioner-based research at local level;
- (iv) liaising with local libraries, parents/community groups and national organisations, such as Education Centres, with local presence, in the promotion of all aspects of children literacy development including children's literature, poetry, technological and new literacies;
- (v) liaising with educational institutions in the advancement of effective pedagogical practice in the development of literacy.



**In our mission statement, literacy is defined as the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create and communicate, using visual, audible, print and digital texts associated with varying contexts.**