**Scoil Mhuire National School**

**Per Cent for Art Scheme**

Kilcruttin, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

(057) 9321222 / [www.scoilmhuiretullamore.ie](http://www.scoilmhuiretullamore.ie)

Under the Per Cent for Art Scheme, Scoil Mhuire National School wishes to commission new visual artwork to celebrate and coincide with the construction and opening of the drop-down and collect area for both Scoil Mhuire and Scoil Bhríde and the complete refurbishment/extension of Scoil Mhuire.

The innovative new development future proofs education for the children of both schools.

**LOCATION AND SCHOOL HISTORY**

Tullamore occupies a central position in County Offaly and is the county town since 1833.

It is almost equidistant from Dublin and Galway. It is located approx. 8 km from the M6 motorway.

Its current population is 15,901.

The town is situated on the **Tullamore river** **and the Grand Canal** which neatly divides the town in half. To the north is the gravel ridge, the Eiscir Riada (the chariot ridge) known as the Arden hills and to the south the Slieve Bloom mountains. On the east and west lie the flat boglands relieved only on the eastern side by the stump of an extinct volcano known as Croghan Hill.

Tullamore’s town shield depicts a **Phoenix rising from the ashes**. The symbol of the Phoenix rising from the ashes is used to describe how Tullamore was rebuilt following the great fire of 1785. The fire was caused by an **air balloon** taking fire in what was possibly only the third attempt to make an ascent in Ireland. Probably about one third of the housing stock was destroyed at this time. Following that great fire, Tullamore was re-built and rose from the ashes to become a significant town in the midlands. **The Grand Canal** has always played an important role in the development of our town. The Grand Canal reached Tullamore in 1798. The Canal was of enormous benefit in that it provided a direct link with Dublin and facilitated the transportation of goods and people at a time when roads were bad.

It was via this canal that Mother Catherine McCawley made her way to Tullamore and set up the Mercy Convent in 1841. The Sisters provided Education for the children of Tullamore.

Scoil Mhuire is a **Mercy school** and was built in 1957. The school provides education for boys and girls up to 1st Class and girls only from 2nd to 6th Class. Scoil Mhuire also has 2 classes for children with Mild General Learning Difficulties.

Scoil Bhríde is situated in Kilcruttin, Tullamore. It was opened in 1961 to replace the old **St.Brigid’s** **School**, in St. Brigid's Place. Scoil Bhríde is a senior boys school. Pupils transfer from Soil Mhuire from Scoil Mhuire after completing first class. The school caters for boys from a wide area around Tullamore. Scoil Bhríde also has a class for children with Mild General Learning Difficulties.

***For a further history of Tullamore go to Michael Byrne’s account of same at http://www.tullamorehistory.com***

**MISSION**

Both Scoil Mhuire and Scoil Bhríde are Catholic schools that promote Christian values and are committed to the holistic development of both pupils and staff.

We endeavour to provide a happy caring and safe environment where respect for both people and their environment is central, thus enabling the children to strive, with confidence towards their full potential.

**CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT**

* **Scoil Mhuire National School and Scoil Bhríde National School**, Tullamore are Primary schools under the Catholic Patronage of Bishop Michael Smith, Bishop of the Meath Diocese.
* Both schools **are partnerships** between Boards of Management, Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and local community. Relationships within these partnerships are fostered, encouraged and enabled.
* Both schools strive to provide the **best educational environment**, where high quality teaching and learning can take place, in an atmosphere of openness and inclusiveness for all.
* Both schools are caring and welcoming. It is a community of **diverse individuals and nationalities.**
* Both schools promote Christian values and celebrate Christian feasts, while respecting and valuing **other faith traditions and people with no formal religious background.**
* Both schools foster the promotion of good relationships, focusing on the growth and development of each individual’s potential.
* Both schools are **actively inclusive of newcomers**, those with **special needs**, those from **minority groups** and those who are **socially or financially disadvantaged.** We aim to achieve this in a spirit of **equality, harmony and friendship**.

**THE PROJECT**

***The dual legacies between both schools - to reflect past, present and future partnerships.***

The aim of the commission is to provide an opportunity for artists to develop new work influenced by the history, context and aspirations of the students, teachers, parents and community of both schools and the surrounding area. **This building project heralds an exciting new beginning for both schools and the commission should reflect that.** In order to convey a sense of the wonderment of children the following key words convey the message we are hoping to send through this piece of art: Renewal, regeneration, growth, awe of childhood, metamorphous, rebirth, friendship between children, schools and community, relationships, pride and the sense of Coming Home. These bank of words are merely a starting point for an artist’s interpretation.

The Project financed under this scheme should maintain the **highest level of artistic excellence, be innovative in nature and display a high level of understanding of the context of the commission.**

**COMMISSION**

The commission is for a piece or pieces of fixed permanent public sculpture of resilient and weather resistant material with minimal maintenance requirement, reflecting the spirit of the brief. Refer to the red zone in the attached site layout plan. The proposed setting of the work is to be situated outside and visible from both schools as well as passers-by. The proposal should also outline the relationship of the art piece with the buildings and the environment.

**THE BUDGET**

The maximum budget for commission is approx. **€34,000 inclusive** of all artists’ fees, costs, transport to the site, construction and installation, expenses, VAT, insurance and any other charges. The successful applicant is to ensure that all elements are provided for within budget.

**It is expected that all artists will comply with the necessary Health and Safety Legislation in the manufacture, supply, delivery and installation of the work.**

**REGISTRATION FOR SITE VISIT**

To register your intention to attend the site visit please email the Commissioner Co-ordinator arts.project@scoilmhuiretullamore.ie or write to Arts Project, Scoil Mhuire, Kilcruttin, Tullamore, Co. Offaly expressing your interest by **12 noon on Monday 9th of May 2016** providing your name, address, telephone number and email address.

**Please note that email will be the form of communication used.**

**SITE VISIT**

A site visit will be held on **Thursday 12th May from 2pm - 4pm**.

It is highly recommended that prospective artists attend the site visit. Only those artists who have registered with the Commission Co-ordinator and confirmed that they will attend the site visit, prior to the date specified, may attend on the day.

The site visit will consist of a tour of the schools and their environs led by a School representative. The meeting point will be the Reception Office at Scoil Mhuire, Tullamore.

While it is not essential for an artist to attend the site visit in order to submit an application, it is highly desirable. It will not be possible to visit the school or the site outside of the planned site visit.

**STAGE 1**

A Stage 1 submission for Commission should consist of:

* C.V. (two A4 pages max)
* Images/recordings of previous work covering the applicants full range of practice including locations of same in hard copy (not more than five A4 pages).
* Proposal (not more than three A3 page).

The proposal should consist of a written description outlining the background to the idea, visual representation of what you envisage the finished work to entail including draft dimensions along with a draft budget and timeline.

**SHORTLISTING**

It is intended that a minimum of 3 artists will be invited to submit a Stage 2 proposal. Each shortlisted artist will receive a fee of €500 (Incl. VAT) to develop their proposal further.

**STAGE 2**

A stage 2 submission for Commission should consist of:

* Detailed written description outlining the background to the concept, the physical impression of the work, and the anticipated impact on its audience (one A4 page max.)
* Sufficient drawings, designs (and written description if necessary) to describe its physical nature and method of construction (one A1 Sheet Max).
* Detailed time scale (one A4 page max).
* Detailed budget (one A4 Page max).
* Detailed maintenance requirements (one A4 page max).

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Proposal for commission at both stages will be selected by a committee consisting of representatives of the teaching staff of both schools, Board of Management, the Architect and an artist. Shortlisted artists may be asked to attend an interview with the committee and be requested to elaborate on their proposals.

Selection will be made on the following criteria:

* How the message of the design brief was interpreted.
* The quality, innovation and artistic merit of the proposal
* Impact and benefit for the community
* Understanding of the physical, social and cultural context of the work.
* Feasibility
* Value for money

**PAYMENTS**

Stage 2 payments will be made in three instalments on receipt of invoices in the name of the artist.

* The first instalment will be paid at the commencement of the project,
* The second instalment will be paid half way through the project at a specific stage decided as part of the final contract
* The third and final instalment will be paid when the project is completed to the satisfaction of the commissioners.

Please also note that the artists will be required to submit a tax clearance certificate in advance of any commission payments being made.

**RESERVATION**

The commissioners reserve the right not to proceed with any of the submissions received.

Please see attached schedule and Appendix

**INTENDED SCHEDULE**

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| Publication of Brief | Friday 29th April, 2016 |
| Registration for Site Visit | Monday 9th May, 2016 at 12 noon |
| Site Visit | Thursday 12th May, 2016 from 2pm to 4pm |
| Stage 1 submission deadline | Friday 10th June 2016 at 12 noon |
| Shortlisted artists notified | 1st July 2016 |
| Stage 2 submission deadline | 14th  September 2016 |
| Possible interview/presentation | 28th September 2016 |
| Successful artist contracted | 12th October 2016 |
| Projects commencement | As per contract |
| Projects completed | 26th May 2017 |

\*project delivery date to be clarified by artist.

Appendix 1 - Site location plan including 3D images.

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