



Slieve Gullion Guided Walks 2019 - 2020

MAGICAL GUIDED WALKS (All Year Round)		
The Fairy Kingdom	<i>Nursery to P3 (ages 4 to 7)</i>	Slieve Gullion's fairies care for the forest and everything that lives there. The Fairy King needs help to keep the forest safe from a troublesome fairy! Can the children help protect the forest animals and birds' home? Through hands-on activities, the children learn about Slieve Gullion's forest, play nature games and complete fun tasks to help the forest fairies save their home.
Finn's Magical Forest	<i>P3 to P5 (age 6 to 9)</i>	Join our magical forest elf for a fun packed walk exploring the fairy trail, woodland wildlife while learning about Slieve Gullion's myths and legends. (Autumn/Winter) Topics to choose from include: the seasons: autumn/winter, trees, hibernation, seeds and nuts, red squirrels, conservation/caring for the forest, camouflage. (Spring/Summer) Topics to choose from: the seasons: spring/summer, mini-beasts, birds, mammals, trees, migration.
Secrets of the Forest	<i>P6 to P7 (age 9 - 11)</i>	This walk is full of activities to help the children investigate the woodland habitat and develop their scientific skills and knowledge. Through tailored tasks they explore how living things depend upon and adapt to the forest habitat. They are encouraged to gain a sense of ownership of Slieve Gullion and become more aware of their own role in caring for the environment and their local area.
Multi-Sensory Trail	<i>All ages and abilities</i>	This sensory forest trail is for all to take part in and enjoy together. Experiences and stations included Forest Bathing, Blind Rope Challenge, Barfuss, Sounds of the Forest and Eye Spy a Troll, Let the sounds of the forest, the rustling of the leaves, the sunlight playing through the leaves, the fresh and clean air, give you a sense of comfort and wonder of awe of nature.
Friends of Slieve Gullion	<i>KS3 and 4, Adult Groups</i>	Join our expert guides along the Hawthorn Hill forest walk. Discover the woodland which was once part of the Chambre Demesne as well as the magnificent views of the Ring of Gullion mountains including Croslieve, Slievebrack and Mullaghbane Mountains from the path. Learn how this AONB with its rich biodiversity of habitats, plants and animals is managed and protected.

MAGICAL GUIDED WALKS (SEASONAL)		
The Great Easter Hunt	<i>All ages</i>	This 'egg-citing' treasure hunt will ensure that the children will have a fantastic walk 'eggs-ploring' the wonders of Slieve Gullion forest. Slieve Gullion's forest elves will help test your classes' detective skills to find clues.
Watch out for the Witch!	<i>All ages</i>	Is your class brave enough to help reverse the spell of the wicked witch Calliagh Beara? Can they help solve the clues along the spine-chilling forest trail? Watch out for all the wild things in the forest!
Winter Wonderland	<i>All ages</i>	Join Santa's elves for a magical Christmas journey through Slieve Gullion's forest. Help us hunt for Christmas clues, learn about the forest's wildlife and take part in fun festive games. Be ready for any fairy challenges in this magical Winter Wonderland!

Number	GUIDED WALK COSTS	Time (depending on age of children and weather conditions)
Up to 20 pupils	£120	Up to 2 hours
Max 30 pupils	£165	
30-60 pupils	£330 (Two walks in one day.)	

Slieve Gullion Storytelling Sessions 2019 - 2020

STORYTELLING IN THE HOBBIT'S HOUSE		
<p>Finn and the Magic Harp (All year around but can be adapted for an excellent Halloween visit!)</p>	<p><i>Nursery to P4 (ages 4 to 8)</i></p>	<p>When the giant, Finn McCool, was a young boy living near Slieve Gullion, he was already growing very big and strong. At the age of six he was already six feet tall and strong enough to use a full-size spear and sword!</p> <p>This highly recommended story is full of fun, music and drama and tells how young Finn trained to become a warrior and helped save the locals from a troublesome Goblin!</p>
<p>Cuchulainn and the Gap of the North</p>	<p><i>P4 to P7 (age 7 to 11)</i></p>	<p>Cuchulainn was an unstoppable warrior hero in Irish legend who was renowned for his unmatched skill in combat, his superhuman deeds! Join the forest elves to hear more about the legend of Cuchulainn and Queen Maebh's Cattle Raid of Cooley at the Gap of the North.</p>
<p>The Little Robin (Christmas only)</p>	<p><i>Nursery to P4 (ages 4 to 8)</i></p>	<p>This story begins with a little robin who has broken his wing, in the middle of a cold, snowy winter... It's beautiful warming story full of the message of Christmas followed with festive games and activities.</p>

Number	STORY TELLING COST	Time
30 pupils max	£80	Up to 1 hour

What is Included in the Guided Tours?

1. The children will be taken on a **magical story** through the forest bringing to life all the art features and fairy locations throughout. As they walk along they will explore and engage in fun games and tasks to help encourage them to learn more and become inspired by the forest, the mountain, its myths and legends and wildlife.
2. The tours will be **curriculum linked** and will be adapted to the age, interest and ability of the pupils. There will links throughout the walk especially to the 'World Around Us' elements of the Curriculum.
3. **Hands on activities and games** along the walk will have links throughout to Language and Literacy, Arts and Mathematics, e.g. myth and legend stories, music, songs, forest art activities, recording and measuring, exploring and observing nature and wildlife.
4. Depending on the season and interest of the group environmental / wildlife activities and games, can cover topics such as mini-beasts, birds, mammals, seasonal changes, migration, conservation/caring for the forest, camouflage, hibernation etc.
5. Groups of less than 30 (one class) are encouraged to ensure high quality of learning, enjoyment and engagement throughout each walk. The guides aim to provide the highest possible experience for all the children and adults.
6. Most groups meet 'the elf' at the bottom of the Giant's Lair walk, complete the walk and then spend half an hour or so in the play park where they also eat their lunch. Larger groups will take it in turn (20 minutes at a time) to start the walk, time therefore can be spent having a break, playing in the play park before the walk commences and then eating their lunch on their return.

Feedback from teachers who have visited:

- We'll be back! Brilliant from start to finish!
- Perfectly pitched for their age group and linked to the curriculum.
- A wonderful day. Well organised and maintained trail which really captured the imagination of all the children!

What is Included in the Storytelling Sessions?

1. The storytelling workshops are a fun and exciting way to visit Slieve Gullion. The pupils meet one of the forest elves who takes them through a magical journey back in time to when Slieve Gullion
2. The sessions are recommended especially for groups with up to 20 pupils who are unable to take the full walking tour due to time or other restrictions such as wheel chair use/mobility issues.

Other information

1. The tours and storytelling workshops are delivered and developed by **qualified and experienced teacher(s)** who are nature/history experts trained to educate, entertain, inform and inspire.
2. The tours and storytelling sessions have been developed by Sharon Carroll a specialist teacher with over 16 years of experience in developing education programmes. She has developed programmes for the Giant's Causeway, Carrick-a-rede rope bridge, Armagh Planetarium, Mid-Antrim Museum service and the Ulster Wildlife to name but a few.
3. She holds a B.A. (Hons) Degree in Geography, a Masters in Applied Environmental Sciences as well as a PGCE in Geography.
4. Her environmental company Enspire (www.enspirelearn.com) provides:
 - Enspire offers curriculum linked Key Stage 1 and 2 programmes for schools based on 'The World Around Us'.
 - Enspire provides expert knowledge and skills in the development and delivery of education programmes and events linked to the natural world and history for all ages and abilities.