



## **NEW VOLUNTEERS – WE’RE LOOKING FOR YOU!**

Laois County Library Service in association with Local Creative Youth Partnership / LOETB and supported by Creative Ireland Laois is establishing a **Fighting Words** programme in Laois. The aim is to help children, young people, and adults to discover and harness the power of their imaginations and creative writing skills.

Fighting Words workshops are created and run by a volunteer team. Volunteers must be over 18 years old and have completed secondary school in order to apply. Volunteers will be trained in child protection and also Garda vetted.

The workshop volunteer team is made up of writing tutors, illustrators and support facilitators. Volunteers are people from all walks of life including writers (both professional and aspiring), teachers, journalists, poets, visual artists, graphic artists, musicians and filmmakers, third level students (from all disciplines!), retired people - and many more people who are just keen to be involved in creative work.

### **Time and Commitment Required for this volunteering role:**

5- 6 volunteers are needed to make each workshop happen, with a 3 hours commitment to each workshop. Volunteers on the Fighting Words panel are free to offer as much or as little time as they wish.

### **For more Information:**

If you are interested in becoming a Fighting Words volunteer, contact the Laois County Library Service **Fighting Words** Coordinator, Jackie McIntyre on 057 8594980 or email [jmcintyre@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:jmcintyre@laoiscoco.ie) for more information.

You **may** then be invited to fill out an online volunteer application form and attend an Information Event and/or Training Session in Mountmellick Library.

Information Event: Wednesday 15th April, 11 – 11.45am

Volunteer Training: Wednesday 15th April, 12 - 2pm

### **What is Fighting Words?**

Fighting Words, founded by Roddy Doyle (writer) and Sean Love (former director of Amnesty International Ireland), is a creative writing initiative launched in January 2009. Fighting Words is open to all who want to write – and its free. Inspired by 826 National in the United States, Fighting Words helps students of all ages to develop their writing skills

and to explore their love of writing. Fighting Words can provide story-telling workshops for primary school groups and creative writing workshops for secondary students and adults. At its core, Fighting Words is also about something much broader and more inclusive. It is about using the creative practice of writing and storytelling to strengthen our children and teenagers – from a wide range of backgrounds – to be resilient, creative and successful shapers of their own lives.

Go to [www.fightingwords.ie](http://www.fightingwords.ie) for more information and follow Fighting Words on Facebook: fightingwordsireland