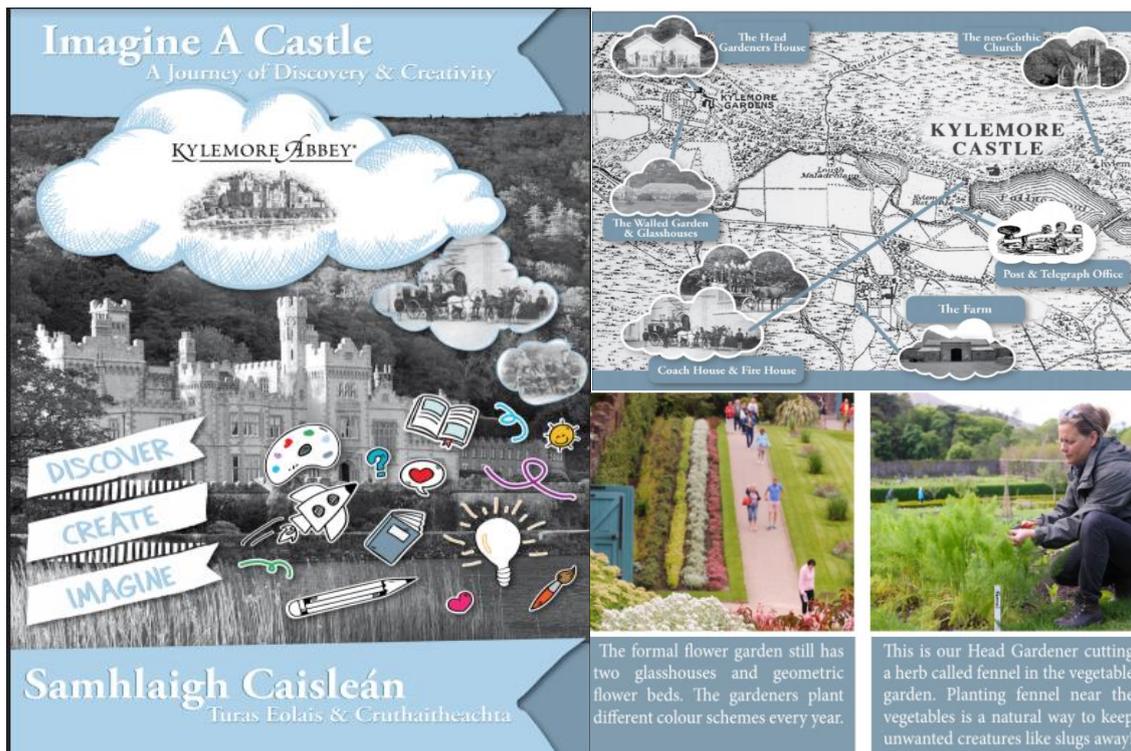


For Immediate Release
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IMAGINE A CASTLE AT KYLEMORE ABBEY

A Journey of Discovery and Creativity for Primary School Students



[Top right: Map of the Kylemore Estate in the 1800s. 'Imagine A Castle' front cover, Bottom right; extracts from 'Garden of Wonder' section

Kylemore Abbey is launching a FREE Schools history workbook

Available as a colourful bi-lingual (English and Irish) workbook or as an online flip-book with accompanying online resources, 'Imagine A Castle' is a wonderful new history resource for 5th and 6th class primary school students being launched from Kylemore this May.

The workbook will be distributed to schools in County Galway through Galway County Library, mobile school's library service with copies also available at Kylemore Abbey or the Heritage Office, Galway County Council. The online version will allow schools from all over the country to explore the Kylemore Estate from the comfort of their own classrooms. Teachers can access videos, a slideshow, and fun audio files with more resources to be added on an ongoing basis. As well as appearing on Kylemore's newly launched website www.kylemoreabbey.com the 'Imagine A Castle' flipbook and resources will also be available through the Galway County Council Heritage office at <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/heritage-publications> and from Creative Ireland at <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/event/imagine-a-castle/>

The workbook explores the history of the Kylemore Estate, through its fascinating buildings, inside and out, through the lives of the people who lived and worked there from Mother Abbesses to kitchen maids to gardeners in the glorious Victorian Walled Garden. Each section of the workbook (Castle, House or Abbey, A Room for Everything, Imagine A Great Estate, Stories Through Pictures, and A Garden of Wonder) closes with a selection of fun and collaborative classroom projects. Children are invited to design a castle, to create a new architectural style, to imagine an estate to place their castle in, to draw portraits and a coat of arms, to make a sensory garden in a shoebox, and to invent a machine inspired by Victorian innovations amongst other things! Teachers will have lots of inspiration with this colourful new resource.

The Kylemore Trust, working in partnership with Galway County Council Heritage Office and Creative Ireland, is committed to extending the rich heritage of the iconic Kylemore Abbey Estate to schools and young people in this innovative new project.

This project forms part of an ongoing commitment by The Kylemore Trust to ensure the Kylemore Estate continues to make an important and strategic contribution to the region, supporting the economic, social, spiritual, educational, and cultural life of the nation.

‘Imagine A Castle’ has been researched and written by Kylemore Abbey Experience Manager Eithne O’Halloran whose own sons, sixth class students in nearby Letterfrack National School were amongst the first students in Galway to receive their workbooks. School Principal Olivia Kerrigan said “ *My teachers and I are always delighted to receive new and engaging teaching supports especially at this time of year when we are already putting much thought into resources for the new school year in September 2021’*.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council said “Galway County Council’s Heritage Office and Galway County Council Creative Ireland team is delighted to partner with Kylemore Abbey Trust on this on this beautiful bi-lingual workbook. I think it will really capture childrens’ imaginations and inspire them to find out more about the history of Kylemore and bring them on a journey of discovery of our rich local heritage”.

M. Maire Hickey, Mother Abbess of Kylemore Abbey commented: It is very gratifying for the Benedictine community to see how this workbook can continue to give quality education of the next generation in the tradition started by Scoil Aine (Kylemore Abbey School).

Kylemore offers hospitality, history, beauty, and freedom to all who visit.

Kylemore Abbey will reopen its doors to the public on June 4th 2021.

-Ends

Notes to the Editor:

High-res images: (Including) Olivia Kerrigan Principal of Letterfrack National School and sixth class students receiving the first batch of ‘*Imagine A Castle*’ workbooks from Eithne O’ Halloran and Sr Maire Hickey OSB at Kylemore Abbey and Marie Mannion, Galway County Council Heritage Officer.

For more information on Kylemore Abbey and the Benedictine community see www.kylemoreabbey.com

About Kylemore Abbey:

Located in the heart of Connemara on the Wild Atlantic Way, Kylemore Abbey was originally built by Mitchell Henry as an ancestral castle in 1868. Later, after passing through the hands of the Duke of Duchess of Manchester, it became home to a Benedictine Community of Nuns who were fleeing war-torn Belgium. In 1920, it was transformed into the iconic Kylemore Abbey. The Estate continues to be a home and place of worship to the Benedictine Community.

Today, visitors can experience the **Abbey at its finest, with** its beautifully restored period rooms. They can discover a fascinating **visitor experience** and learn about its history of tragedy, romance, education, and spirituality. They can explore the **6-acre Victorian Walled Garden** with its delightfully restored garden buildings, formal flower, and vegetable and herb gardens. Step into nature with extended **woodland and lakeshore walks** that journey through this vast 1,000-acre estate. The stunning [Gothic Church](#) is a short walk from the Abbey and is a haven of serenity. Visitors are encouraged to peek into Sr. Genevieve’s Chocolate Kitchen to see the Nuns making their uniquely delicious chocolate treats. **Families can become ‘History Hunters’ with a Free self-guiding history tour and children under 16 go free too!**

About The Kylemore Trust:

In 1920 the Benedictine nuns purchased the estate and arrived in Kylemore on 4 December 1920 as refugees, having fled their Abbey in war-torn Ypres during World War 1. Since then the Castle became known as Kylemore Abbey and operated as a prestigious girls’ Boarding & Day School until 2010, attracting pupils from all over the world. Today students from the University of Notre Dame attend residential courses as part of a strategic partnership between the Kylemore Trust. For over a century, the nuns have worked tirelessly to preserve and develop the estate, restoring the Victorian Walled Gardens, the neo-Gothic Church, and the castle building. Now one of Ireland’s leading visitor attractions, it generates considerable socio-economic benefit for the local community and a centre of excellence in innovation, education, and heritage. Last year marked the centenary of the Benedictine nuns at Kylemore Abbey. The ‘*Imagine a Castle*’ Workbook project draws on this storied estate and national treasure located in the heart of the unique landscape of Connemara.

For more information or photography please contact Eithne O Halloran, Kylemore Abbey Experience Manager, at eithne.ohalloran@kylemoreabbey.com or on 00353 87 2113904