

## Dungannon: Where I Live

Dungannon has an ancient history. The town can trace its roots to pre-Christian times, perhaps as far back as 2,000 years. Geanain's hill fort (dún) was located on the top of the hill which both the O'Neills and Arthur Chichester regarded as strategically and politically important.

The street layout of modern Dungannon can lay claim to both a Plantation and a Gaelic past, and the names of some of the streets reveal the interesting history of this central Ulster town.

*Dungannon: Where I Live* is a learning activity which aids children in their study of the town through the exploration of the local built environment and its heritage. Key Stage 2 pupils take part in a heritage walk, led by the Visitor Experience & Education Officer, as they discover the history of the buildings and structures in the town centre.

Beginning at Ranfurly House, the pupils make a study of the Market Square; discover what happened/happens in Dungannon's Market Square; find out about Ranfurly House's past life as a bank; learn about the urban legend connected with the former police station; take a walk to the Reservoir Gateway which was constructed in 1909; discover an archway dating back to 1794; examine Thomas Knox Hannington's towers; then stand on the site of the O'Neill castle/Chichester fort and begin to understand why castles were built on this site.

Pupils record their findings in a specially prepared booklet, and they then make their way into Ranfurly House where they study a series of photos of Dungannon town centre from late Victorian/Edwardian times.

As this programme is held mostly outside, pupils should arrive at the centre appropriately dressed. The starting time each day is 10.00am and the programme lasts for two hours.

### Learning Outcomes

Pupils will:

- Engage with historical facts relating to Dungannon's built heritage through a guided tour of part of the town
- Individually, and in small groups, make a study of a series of buildings, making notes and completing pupil worksheets
- Have the opportunity to engage with photos and artefacts relating to some of Dungannon's older buildings, thereby beginning to understand some of Dungannon's history.

For more information about *Dungannon: Where I Live* contact the Visitor Experience & Education Officer, Peter Lant:

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