**CoderDojo Drogheda Website Text**

What Is CoderDojo?

CoderDojo is a free, volunteer-led, community-based programming club for young people. Anyone aged seven to seventeen can visit our Dojo here in Drogheda where they can learn to code, build a website, create an app or a game, and explore technology in an informal, creative, and social environment.

As part of the CoderDojo movement we believe that an understanding of programming languages is increasingly important in the modern world, that it’s both better and easier to learn these skills early, and that nobody should be denied the opportunity to do so.

# Attend our Dojo

It’s been famously remarked that any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. Well, if that’s true, CoderDojo Drogheda wants to help train the next generation of Harrys and Hermiones.

Anyone from the age of seven to seventeen can visit our Dojo and learn how to code, build websites, apps, or games and explore technology in a laid-back, creative, fun and social environment.

FAQs

What is my child going to learn?

CoderDojo is not curriculum based, so every Dojo covers different topics. Often young people will start with Scratch, a visual programming tool, or by building their own website.

How do you register for our Dojo?

Log onto:

<https://zen.coderdojo.com/dojo/ie/louth/drogheda/drogheda-on-the-boyne>

for CoderDojo in St Olivers Community College

<https://zen.coderdojo.com/dojo/ie/drogheda/drogheda-bank-of-ireland>

for Drogheda Digital Payments Dojo in Bank of Ireland

What does my child need to bring?

Just themselves and a laptop. If you don’t have one there are a few spare laptops to lend. Don’t forget curiosity and a positive attitude too!

Can parents help?

Yes, you can absolutely help! If you have technical skills you can mentor at the Dojo. If not, you can help out with registrations, check-in, and promoting the Dojo both online and offline.

How much does it cost?

Does my child need experience in coding?

At what day and time does Coderdojo usually take place?

Does my child need to bring a packed lunch?

# About

As part of the CoderDojo movement we believe that an understanding of programming languages is increasingly important in the modern world, that it’s both better and easier to learn these skills early, and that nobody should be denied the opportunity to do so.  
To that end, we set up a free, volunteer-led, community-based programming club for young people in the Drogheda are back in 2011. Anyone aged seven to seventeen can visit our Dojo where they can learn to code, build a website, create an app or a game, and explore technology in an informal, creative, and social environment.

CoderDojo Movement

CoderDojo is a global movement of free, volunteer-led, community-based programming clubs for young people. Anyone aged seven to seventeen can visit a Dojo where they can learn to code, build a website, create an app or a game, and explore technology in an informal, creative, and social environment.

Within the CoderDojo Movement there is a focus on peer learning, youth mentoring and self-led learning. We aim to help young people realise that they can build a positive future through coding and community.

A bit of history

In early 2011, when James Whelton was an 18 year old coder in Cork, he received some publicity after hacking the iPod Nano. As a result, some of the younger students at his school expressed an interest in learning how to code. He set up a computer club in his school where he started teaching students basic HTML and CSS. Later that year he met Bill Liao, an entrepreneur and philanthropist. Seeing the positive impact James was having, Bill expressed an interest in growing the project. Together the pair founded CoderDojo.

The first Dojo

In July 2011 the first CoderDojo was launched at the National Software Centre in Cork. The first sessions were immensely popular, with people travelling from Dublin on a regular basis to attend. Owing to this popularity, and a desire to share the CoderDojo format, James and Bill decided to open source the model.

This encouraged rapid growth, initially across Ireland and then globally in North America and Italy. Through making the movement open source, thousands of dedicated Champions and Mentors set up more Dojos across the world, making the CoderDojo movement a global phenomenon. There are now more than 1,100 verified Dojos in 63 countries, with new Dojos starting almost every day.

CoderDojo Drogheda

During RTE series “Local Heroes” local volunteers met with James Whelton to discuss starting CoderDojo Drogheda. In November 2011, CoderDojo Drogheda opened as only the 4th CoderDojo in the world (following Cork, Dublin and Limerick) – there are now over 1,100 verified dojos around the world. The first few CoderDojos in Drogheda were hosted by MOR solutions ([www.morsolutions.com)](http://www.morsolutions.com)), we then were welcomed by The Highlanes Gallery ([www.highlanes.ie)](http://www.highlanes.ie)) and now our home is St Olivers Community College ([www.socc.ie)](http://www.socc.ie)). CoderDojo Drogheda is responsible for quite a few firsts and global initiatives…

* Drogheda was the 1st Dojo to introduce pizza for coders – this is now a global CoderDojo phenomenon!
* Drogheda was the first Dojo to award Belts as rewards for coding achievements. See <http://kata.coderdojo.com/wiki/Belts>
* Drogheda was the first Dojo to twin with another Dojo – our sister Dojo is also out Sister (twin) city – Salinas, California.
* Drogheda held the 2nd international CoderDojo Mentor conference at Slane Castle in April 2013 and set the standard that all other “DojoCon” events!
* Mentor’s from CoderDojo Drogheda have helped and supported the formation of many other Dojos around the world including Dundalk, Newry, Ardee, Coolock, three dojos in Belgium and Salinas USA.
* CoderDojo Drogheda with the support of Droichead Arts Centre ([www.droichead.com)](http://www.droichead.com)) ran what may have been Ireland’s first Youth Tech & Art festival called “Game On Drogheda” ([www.gameondrogheda.com)](http://www.gameondrogheda.com)) as part of The Drogheda Arts Festival in May 2014.
* And now the world’s first Digital Payments Dojo has established at Bank of Ireland, Drogheda.

# Volunteer / Ways to get involved

It doesn’t matter if you’re a veteran coder or have no technical experience, we’re always looking for awesome volunteers to help out at CoderDojo Drogheda!

What's involved

How can I help??

You can attend your Dojo’s meetings and help out for a couple of hours, whether that’s weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Experienced coder?

Help out at a Dojo and share your knowledge with local young people who are eager to learn!

No technical expertise?

No problem! We need awesome people to help with registration, updating social media, producing fliers etc. Any help is appreciated!

Ready-made resources!

We have loads of resources to get you started as a volunteer, and you can always create and share your own. Find out more on the resources page.

Tech Tutorials & Resources

We have collected resources, produced by community members, partners and the ourselves, that can help you in learning how to code.  
The collection includes guidelines on how to mentor, a look at how a typical Dojo runs, flyers to recruit Mentors or explain CoderDojo to parents, as well as educational material, exercises and project ideas to give to the Ninjas at your Dojo.

CoderDojo Drogheda

CoderDojo is a home-grown initiative started to promote computing at primary and secondary levels. A CoderDojo is a computing club that meets regularly and teaches young people computing skills, as well as informing them about what computing means in the real world. Students aged from 8 to 18 meet up and, under the supervision of and with guidance from a group of mentors, learn about a variety of computing topics, including HTML, CSS, Scratch and Python. These mentors are all professions in the area of computing and are giving up their time on a voluntary basis, which helps contribute to **keeping CoderDojo completely free to attend** !

With the help of DkIT, CoderDojo Drogheda started in early 2011, and has attracted a great deal of interest not only from young people in Drogheda but also from all over the North East of the country, with people travelling from Dundalk, Newry, Monaghan and even Cavan to attend. CoderDojo Drogheda continuously attracts 70+ new and returning members to each meeting, with demand for tickets extremely high.