22ND OPEN FEIS

SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2026

Chelmer Valley High School, Court Road, Chelmsford, CM1 7ER

ADJUDICATORS

Julie Loughlin
Southern Region UK

Colin Ryan
Leinster, Ireland

Andrea McQuade
Scotland, UK

Catherine Flanagan
Ulster, Ireland

Bernadette Chaney Farrell
Leinster, Ireland

Josh Ruddock
Southern Region, UK

Alan Murphy
Connacht, Ireland

Michael Kenny
Southern Region, USA

Philip Owens
Southern Region, USA

MUSICIANS

Dean Crouch
Ulster, Ireland

Aidan O'Neill
Southern Region, UK

Majella Collins Brooks
Southern Region, UK

CLARITHE FEIS AN COIMISIUN LE RINCI GAELACHA

Entries received on or before Friday 6th March 2026 - Normal fees will apply

Entries recived between Saturday 7th March and Friday 20th March 2026
will incrur a £2 administration fee as per SERC rulings.
Entries will be taken on the day of the Feis subject to a
£5 administration fee as per SERC rulings.

Feis registered with An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha

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+44(0)7534 240990 mcgahanlees@gmail.com @McGahanLees.IrishDance @McGahanLees

Dear Dancers, Parents and Teachers,
We are delighted to invite you to the 22nd Open Feis hosted by the McGahan Lees Irish Dance Academy. The feis will be held on Saturday 21st March, at Chelmer Valley High School, in Chelmsford, only a 25 minute cab journey away from Stansted Airport.

Chelmer Valley School offers a clean modern and spacious feel to all of its spaces, including a large car park, two canteens adjacent to the main hall, and in addition to the schools own main stage we will be erecting 2 purpose-built stages by Stage Time Productions, in the gymnasium and sports hall.

All entries will be submitted online via the link listed within the syllabus or at www.mcgahanlees.co.uk and all payments will be made via bank transfer.

To aid dancers preparations for Oireachtas Rince Na Cruinne our Open Championships (Under 8 and above) will be judged by a total of **6 adjudicators (3 for rounds 1 and 2 and a seperate 3 for set round)** and we will provide a 100% recall for all Open and Preliminary Championships.

As in previous years, awards in the Championships will be from 1st to 5th with cups and sashes, trophies from 1st to 3rd in all graded solos in addition to a sash for all trophy reel winners.

Each of our halls will also see the return of our social media areas where dancers can take their own photos at any time during the day.

This year we will be collecting our door entry at the same time as the entry and not at the car park gate. Therefore please add a single fee of £10 to cover all members of your family (irrespective of how many attend) attending.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Feis and thank you in advance for your support.

THE MCGAHAN LEES FEIS COMMITTEE

MORE INFORMATION:

You will find more information about our feis on our website

All updates will be posted here

Queries from registered teachers should be addressed to the Feis Committee at mcgahanlees@gmail.com

All other queries, including those from parents and dancers, should be sent to:webmaster@mcgahanlees.co.uk

SCAN ME

SOLO COMPETITIONS

1st to 3rd places in all solos will be awarded trophies and a sash for all trophy reel winners.

Age Group	Ungraded Under 5 Only	Novice/ Bun Grad	Primary/ Tus Grad	Intermediate/ Mean Grad	Open/ Ard Grad
Under 5 Under 6 6 & Under 7	Reel Light Jig Single Jig Slip Jig	Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig	Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig	Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe	Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe Championship
7 & Under 8 8 & Under 9 9 & Under 10 10 & Under 11 11& Under 12 12 & Under 13		Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe	Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe	Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe	Preliminary and Open championships incorporating 2 solos. Preliminary Champi-onships from Under 10 to Under 13
Over 13		Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe	Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe	Reel Light jig Single jig Slip jig Heavy Jig Hornpipe	
13 & Under 14 14 & Under 15 15 & Under 16 16 & Under 17 17 & Under 18 18 & Under 19 19 & Under 20 20 & Under 21 Under 23 Senior					Preliminary and Open championships incorporating 2 solos. Preliminary Champi-onships up to U16, 16-18, and Over 18

Traditional Set Dance Competition – Under 6
Open Set Dance Competition – Under 7

FIGURE COMPETITIONS:

Under 9	9 & Under 11	11 & Under 13	13 & Under 16	Over 16
2 Hand Dance 3 Hand Dance 4 Hand Dance Fairy Reel 8 Hand Dance Progressive Ceili C/ship	2 Hand Dance 3 Hand Dance 4 Hand Dance Fairy Reel 8 Hand Dance Progressive Ceili C/ship	2 Hand Dance 3 Hand Dance 4 Hand Dance Fairy Reel 8 Hand Dance Progressive Ceili C/ship	2 Hand Dance 3 Hand Dance 4 Hand Dance Fairy Reel 8 Hand Dance Progressive Ceili C/ship	2 Hand Dance 3 Hand Dance 4 Hand Dance Fairy Reel 8 Hand Dance Progressive Ceili C/ship

All grade solos will be a maximum of 32 bars

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CHAMPIONSHIPS – GIRLS

(Rounds 1 and 2 will also be judged as solos)

Competition	First Round	Second Round	100% Recall
Under 6 (Mixed)	Reel	Light Jig	No recall
6 & Under 7 (Mixed)	Reel	Light Jig/Heavy Jig	No recall
7 & Under 8 (Mixed)	Reel	Light Jig/Heavy Jig	Traditional Set
8 & Under 9 (Mixed)	Heavy Jig	Reel	Traditional Set
9 & Under 10	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Trad/Open Set
10 & Under 11	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
11 & Under 12	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
12 & Under 13	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
13 & Under 14	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
14 & Under 15	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
15 & Under 16	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
16 & Under 17	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
17 & Under 18	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
18 & Under 19	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
19 & Under 20	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
20 & Under 21	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
Under 23	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
Senior	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set

CHAMPIONSHIPS – BOYS

(Rounds 1 and 2 will also be judged as solos)

Competition	First Round	Second Round	100% Recall
9 & Under 11	Jig or Hornpipe	Reel	Trad/Open Set
11 & Under 13	Jig or Hornpipe	Reel	Open Set
13 & Under 15	Jig or Hornpipe	Reel	Open Set
15 & Under 17	Jig or Hornpipe	Reel	Open Set
17 & Under 19	Jig or Hornpipe	Reel	Open Set
Senior	Jig or Hornpipe	Reel	Open Set

PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS – MIXED

(Rounds 1 and 2 will also be judged as solos)

Competition	First Round	Second Round	100% Recall
9 & Under 10	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Trad/Open Set
10 & Under 11	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
11 & Under 12	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
12 & Under 13	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
13 & Under 14	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
14 & Under 15	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
15 & Under 16	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
16-18	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set
Over 18	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe	Reel/Slip Jig	Open Set

Championships Under 10 and above Jig/Reel 48 bars, Slip Jig/Hornpipe 40 bars.
Championships Under 6, 7, 8 and 9 plus all Preliminary Championships 8 bars less.

ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN FOR THIS VIA OUR AN ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM

- ✓ ONLINE ENTRIES ARE TO BE MADE BY CLICKING ON THE LINK BELOW.
- ✓ ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR ENTRY FORM/S, YOU WILL HAVE 24 HOURS IN WHICH TO MAKE PAYMENT.
- ✓ ANYONE WHO DOES NOT SUBMIT A CONFIRMATION OF PAYMENT WITHIN 24 HOURS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE ENTRY LIST

CLICK HERE TO ENTER THE FEIS

ENTRY FEES

Solo trophies (1st to 3rd in all solos will be awarded trophies)	£5
Under 6 and 7 Championship (If entering 3 or more solos)	£20
Under 6 and 7 Championship (With no solos entered)	£30
Under 8 Championships and Above	£45
All Preliminary Championships	£40
Figure/Ceili (per Dancer)	£5
Family Fee (2 Dancers)	£75
Family Fee (3 or More Dancers)	£90
Single Dancer Maximum Fee (Excluding door entry fee)	£55
Family Door Entry (Payable with entry)	£10

FEISEANNA RULES

FEIS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Lodgement of entries implies that you acknowledge and accept all of the Rules of An Coimisiun Le Rinci Gaelacha and the Southern England Regional Council plus the additional rules listed below, relating to the Feis.
2. Entries will only be accepted from Schools registered with An Coimisiun Le Rinci Gaelacha. Entries with no fee will not be processed or acknowledged.
3. New entries may be taken on the day of the Feis in line with SERC late entry rule.
4. Ages to be taken from the 1st January 2026.
5. All dancers may be required to produce their birth certificate/passport as proof of age.
6. All competitors must dance in their own age group for solo competitions except where there is no competition in their age group for that particular dance. Dancers cannot compete in a younger age group.

COMPETITION RULES

1. All decisions of the Adjudicators are FINAL.
2. Competitors may only dance each dance in 1 grade only.
3. Where there are 5 or less dancers in a competition, results will not affect their grading.
4. In all Heavy Dances the lead around must be danced on both the right and left foot.
5. NOVICE is for a dancer who has not gained a 1st,2nd or 3rd place in a Novice Grade competition or any medal in a higher grade for that particular dance.
6. The basic step rule will apply to all Novice Competitions as per the SERC local rules.
7. The Primary Grade is for dancers who have not won a 1st or 2nd place for that particular dance in ANY Age Group.
8. All Novice and Primary Dancers may only wear a class costume or simple dancewear in competitions up to and including Under 12 age group. Make-up will not be permitted for any dancer in the first two grades up to and including the Under 12 age group Worldwide, Failure to comply with this rule can result in disqualification.
9. The Intermediate Grade is for Dancers who have not won a 1st place for that particular dance in that age group or an older age group, or who has not won a Premier competition, Preliminary Championship or an Open Championship.
10. Intermediate dancers can dance their grades and either the Preliminary or Open Championship.
11. An Coimisiun has ruled that from 1st January of each year, that no block, en pointe, stationary or moving be allowed to be performed for all ages up to and including the Under 12 age group Worldwide. The Under 12 Age Group will be allowed to Toe Walk from 1st September.
12. Any competitor found to be using artificial carriage aids and subsequently refuses to remove same will be subject to disqualification from that competition. Medically prescribed apparatus, proof of which may be required, will be exempt from this ruling.
13. In order to comply with the health and safety measures, all dancers lining up side stage prior to any round of a competition will be required to perform the simple exercise of raising arms to shoulder level unhindered. If unable to do this due to costume stitching or any arm attachments by the time of their rotation they will not be permitted to perform.
14. Make-up rule (4.5 in CLRG rulebook) 4.5.2 make-up (including false eyelashes) is not permitted for dancers, in either solo or team competitions, up to and including the Under 10 age group (POINT OF CLARIFICATION) For the purpose of this rule the term 'Make-up' includes tinted moisturiser and any artificial tanning products. An coimisiun hopes that teachers and parents will interpret and apply this rule in the spirit in which it is intended.
15. Costume length: length of costume must adhere to principles of modesty and enable dancers to safely execute their movements and steps. Adjudicators who determine a costume to be too short or to lack modesty may ask a competitor to change in to black tights (of a denier not less than 70%) in order for the dancer to continue in the competition. For competitions adjudicated by a panel of more than one adjudicator, all the adjudicators on the panel must agree to ask the dancer to wear tights.
16. Appropriate undergarment covering the midriff must be worn, Undergarments must provide full coverage as per CLRG rules.
17. Costumes (including headwear) worn in championship competitions must not include any "Identifying Designs" - "Identifying Designs" are defined as any element on any costume worn in championship solo competitions identifying a status of achievement or an Irish dance competition award (i.e. globes). 1/9/25

FEIS RULES

1. The adjudication panel is at the discretion of the Feis Organiser.
2. The Feis Organiser must provide non slip flooring for every dance surface, however the Feis Organiser cannot accept any liability for injury sustained whilst dancing.
3. Dancers must be properly attired throughout the whole competition and must be in full costume and appropriate footwear when receiving results. No changing allowed in competition areas.
4. Any form of unauthorised photography which has the capability to capture a dancer's image whilst in motion, using electronic or manual means, e.g. mobile phone, standard camera, video camcorder, cine recorder, commercial film, with or without flash enhancement, is expressly forbidden in all competitions.

5. Photographs taken at awards ceremonies are permitted, however these must be for your own use and not used for public display purposes, unless permission has been obtained.
6. Any competition can be moved to a different hall at the discretion of the Feis Secretary.
7. All championship cups are perpetual and recipients will be responsible for any loss or damage and for the safe return in adequate time to be presented to subsequent winners.
8. Parents are responsible for the conduct of their children at all times whilst attending the Feis.
9. The Feis Organiser accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal property.
10. NO SMOKING on school premises.
11. Eating and drinking should only be in designated areas.
12. Objections against any breach of the above rules must be made in writing, and signed, to the Feis Secretary and accompanied by a fee of £25, which will be refunded if the objection is upheld. If parents have any constructive comments to make about any aspect Feisanna, these would be welcomed by the council and should be put in writing. It should be noted anonymous correspondence cannot be dealt with.

PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A minimum number of three Adjudicators must officiate.
- The first age group for a preliminary championship is Under 10.
- Where a preliminary championship is held separate from an Open Championship, three rounds should be offered, namely; Reel or Slip Jig, Heavy Jig or Hornpipe and any set dance.
- Where a preliminary championship is combined with an open championship, then the result should be taken from eligible dancers' ranking after the first two rounds.
- Where there are separate preliminary championships, dancers can compete in both at the discretion of the Feis Organiser.
- When an competitor wins two preliminary championships they must dance in open championships for a period of 12 months thereafter.
- For grading purposes, two wins will be taken as being in any 2 year rolling period. Where a dancer does not win a second preliminary within 2 years of winning their first preliminary championship, then the first win will be deemed as having expired and the dancer starts a fresh.
- Where there are less than six in a preliminary championship that win will not normally be considered for grading purposes. However where a dancer wins three preliminary championships regardless of the number of competitors in each competition, that dancer must dance in open championship for a period of 12 months thereafter.
- Dances performed in a preliminary championship do not count for grading in solo competitions.
- Competitors that qualify for and compete in Oireachtas Rince Na Cruinne in the previous 12 months cannot compete in a preliminary championship accept where the dancer auto qualified at their regional or national Oireachtas due to lack of numbers.
- Dancers placing 1st-3rd in an open championship with up to 20 competitors or 1st-5th in an open championship with more than 20 competitors cannot compete in a preliminary for a period of 12 months.

AWARDS

2 medals/trophies = 5 or less – 4 medals = 6 to 10 competitors
7 medals = 11 to 20 competitors – 10 medals = 21 to 30 competitors
14 medals = 31 to 40 competitors
1 medal for each additional 5 or part of 5 competitors

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

The Feis Organiser and committee will protect all users information in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2018.
The Feis Organiser is a fully paid up member of CLRG and comply with all CLRG GDPR Regulations currently in place as regards to running Feisanna.

Data collected will be via the completed entry pack. All data in the entry pack will be stored on a password protected laptop and only shared the Feis Organiser and the tabulation team.

OUR CHAMPIONS 2025

Mixed Champions	Champion of Champions
U6 - Sorcha O'Riordan, McGL	Minor - Maddie Bugler, McCarron
U7 - Mia Hoey, Keane Academy	Junior - Darlagh McCrory, Doherty Petri
U8 - Aoibhinn Devine, Doherty Petri	Senior - Blanaid O'Neill, Doherty Petri
U9 - Maddie Bugler, McCarron	Team points Cup - Doherty Petri
Girls/Ladies Champions	**Boys/Mens Champions**
U10 - Clodagh McCarron-Zylfiu, McCarron	U11 - Oisin Harrell, Angela O'Connor Academy
U11 - Darlagh McCrory, Doherty Petri	U13 - Leo Coates, Marie Connell
U12 - Keyana Sahadatalli, Doherty Petri	U15 - Luke McMorrow, Maguire O'Shea
U13 - Ava Vaughan, McGL	U17 - Aidan Ward, Marie Connell
U14 - Ellen Leavens, McGL	U19 - Shay Brunning, Glendarragh
U15 - Ayasha Lombard, McDonnell Mortalo	Senior - Se O'Toole, Brooks
U16 - Eirinn Fegan, Doherty Petri	**Preliminary Champions**
U17 - Mya Toal Allen, Doherty Petri	U11 - Rebecca Hunsdale, Loughran
U18 - Olivia Delaney, McGL	U12 - Roisin Butler, McCarron
U19 - Emma Eaton, Ceim Oir	U13 - Erin Poynter, Maguire O'Shea
U20 - Blanaid O'Neill, Doherty Petri	U14 - Austin Paterson, Claddagh
U21 - Mary Ellen Conway, McGL	U15 - Amy Sexton, Troy O'Herlihy
U23 - Niamh O'Reilly, Kavanagh Porter Academy	U16 - Amelia Winchurst, Brooks
Senior - Amelia Murphy, Ceim Oir	16-18 - Jazmyne Duggan, Lorraine Duggan Academy

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Chelmer Valley High School,
Court Road, Broomfield,
Chelmsford, Essex. CM17ER

51°46'17"N 0°28'02"E

By Car

The main motorways nearest the venue are the M25 and M11 motorways

Route from M25:-

https://goo.gl/maps/DDyYkUikRLxU2TV6A

Route from M11:-

https://goo.gl/maps/k1KN9N1HXkyTLsLh9

By Rail

The nearest station to Chelmer Valley School is Chelmsford

Chelmsford station is 10 minutes by taxi to Chelmer Valley School

By Air

25 minutes from London Stansted Airport

Route by car from Stansted:-

https://goo.gl/maps/k8JSoAUeu26e3EfAA

Route by coach from Stansted:-

https://goo.gl/maps/g35BrZ76ua96NoJd9

Local Taxi Companies

Chelmsford Cabs +44 (0) 1245 767060

https://www.chelmsfordcabs.co.uk/

Fairway Taxis Chelmsford +44 (0) 1245 355555

https://farewaytaxisltd.com/

Happicabs +44 (0) 1245 443 443

https://happicabs.com/