**Places to visit with children.**

Here is a list of places to visit and things to do with children in Swords, Fingal and further afield. There are many more activities available – this is not a comprehensive list. Some have admission fees, some do not. Enjoy!

**Swords**

Swords Castle. Built in the 13th century by Archbishop Comyn. Climb to the top of the castle walls, visit the chapel and explore the Constable’s tower. Free admission.

St. Columba’s Church, Swords. Enjoy a walk in the grounds of St. Columba’s church whilst marvelling at the 9th century round tower and bell tower beside it. There was a monastery founded at this site in 560AD by St. Columcille. The body of the great High King of Ireland, Brian Ború, was taken here after he lost his life in the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

The ‘Jacko’ park, also known as ‘The Ward River Valley Park’. This park is located along the Brackenstown Road. If exiting the school, turn left, continue straight at the roundabout and continue onwards until you reach a T-junction with a playground. Access the park by a pathway behind the playground. The Ward river runs through this park and there are various obstacles/keep-fit equipment at the bottom of the path.

Swords Library (Eircode: K67YP79). Free membership and many books to loan. If a book is not in stock, the librarians will order it in for you.

Swords Estuary to feed the swans and ducks.

Swords Tennis Club. Located in Swords Park behind the castle. Pay to play.

Fingallians GAA Club – Gaelic games such as football, hurling/camogie. Regular training sessions and matches for all ages. www.fingallians.com

St. Columcille’s GAA Club - Gaelic games such as football, hurling/camogie. Regular training sessions and matches for all ages. [www.stcolumcillesgfc.ie](http://www.stcolumcillesgfc.ie).

Swords Celtic Football Club – soccer activities for all ages. [www.swordscelticfc.yourclub.ie](http://www.swordscelticfc.yourclub.ie).

Swords Manor Football Club - soccer activities for all ages. [www.swordsmanorfootballclub.yourclub.ie](http://www.swordsmanorfootballclub.yourclub.ie).

Swords Beavers/Scouts – this group allows children to join once they are 7. However, it is best if you put your child’s name down as young as possible as there are waiting lists to join. www.swordsscouts.ie

Bounce and Beyond, Ballyboughal. Trampoline Park. For admission fees and booking, see their Facebook page.

**Donabate.**

Newbridge House, Farm and Gardens. Lovely little farm where pigs, horses, sheep, chickens, peacocks, cows, etc can be seen. Admission fee – see website. www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com

Newbridge House park and playground. Free admission to the park and playground. Some animals can also be seen during walks around the back of the house. There are also deer that can be seen for free. Nice for a trip around Christmas.

Turvey Nature Reserve. Free admission. This is a wildlife park so perfect for outdoor adventures. Take the R126 towards Donabate. Go past Newbridge House on your left. Then turn left at the next traffic light junction. You will pass a petrol station on your left. Take the first left after the petrol station. This is a very short road and goes downhill to a t-junction. Then go left. Watch for a sign stating Rogerstown Estuary/Turvey Park and then turn right into the carpark.

**Rush.**

Rush North Beach. Travel to Rush and then follow the signs for the North Beach.

Rush South Beach. Travel to Rush and then follow the signs for the South Beach.

**Malahide.**

Malahide Castle, butterfly house, coffee shop and gift shop. See website for admission fee. [www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie](http://www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie).

Malahide Castle park and playground. Free admission.

Malahide Cricket Club. [www.malahidecc.com](http://www.malahidecc.com)

Malahide/Portmartnock beach. This large beach is located on the left side of the road as you leave Malahide in the direction of Portmarnock.

The Model Railway. Admission fees apply. [www.modelrailwaymuseum.ie](http://www.modelrailwaymuseum.ie)

Toots the tourist train. Take a tour around Malahide in a small road train. Admission fees apply. Further details available at [www.enjoymalahide.com/](http://www.enjoymalahide.com/)

**Skerries.**

Skerries mills and market on Saturdays. Admission fee applies. [www.skerriesmill.ie](http://www.skerriesmill.ie)

Skerries beach. Large beach area at Strand Street, Skerries.

Ardgillan Castle, park and playground. Free admission to the park and playground – beautiful views of the sea from the playground. Fees apply for tours of the castle. [www.ardgillancastle.ie](http://www.ardgillancastle.ie).

**Santry.**

Santry park and playground. [Details](http://Details) of this park/playground and many other amenities in Fingal are available at www.fingal.ie/resident

**Lucan.**

Fort Lucan. Outdoor adventure centre for children. Admission fees apply, see website [www.fortlucan.com](http://www.fortlucan.com).

**Dublin City Centre.**

National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square West, Dublin 2. Free admission. Regular events for children relating to art.

National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and Military Museum at Collins Barracks. Free admission. www.museum.ie.

National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology. www.museum.ie.

Museum of Natural History. Also known as the ‘Dead Museum’. Admission free. www.museum.ie/naturalhistory

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA). Free admission. [www.imma.ie](http://www.imma.ie).

Playground in Merrion Square – city centre. Located at the west side of the square. Free admission.

The Long Room and Book of Kells at Trinity College. Admission fees apply. www.tcd.ie/visitors/book-of-kells/

EPIC museum of immigration. Admission fees apply. www.epicchq.com

GPO Museum. A history of the Easter Rising. Admission fees apply. [www.gpohistory.ie](http://www.gpohistory.ie)

Croke Park/GAA museum and Skywalk. Admission fees apply. www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum

Dublin Zoo. Large zoo with lots of different animals, including a large African Plains area. Admission fees apply. www.dublinzoo.ie

Phoenix Park and playground. Largest city park in Europe with deer living wild. All details on the park available at www.phoenixpark.ie.

Glasnevin Cemetery and information centre. Famous cemetery with some very impressive memorials. Many famous people buried here also. Take a tour with a guide to find out more. Also, visit the interpretative centre. Free to walk around the cemetery, fees apply to tours and to accessing the interpretative centre. See [www.dctrust.ie/experience-glasnevin/home.html](http://www.dctrust.ie/experience-glasnevin/home.html).

Botanic Gardens. Located in Drumcondra, this is a beautiful landscaped park with many, many different plants and trees on display. Free admission. [www.botanicgardens.ie](http://www.botanicgardens.ie)

Dublinia. Experience life in Viking Dublin through this museum located close to Christchurch Cathedral in Dublin city centre. Admission fees apply. [www.dublinia.ie](http://www.dublinia.ie).

Kilmainham Gaol. Learn about the history of this prisons, where many Irish rebels were kept before execution. Admission fees apply. [Www.kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie/](http://Www.kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie/)

Butler’s Chocolate Factory. Admission fees apply. www.butlerschocolates.com

**Dublin South City/County.**

Bray promenade (in Wicklow county). Seaside walk in Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Fernhill Park and Gardens, Stepaside. Free admission. More information here: www.dlrcoco.ie/en/parks/fernhill-park-and-gardens

Powerscourt Gardens and waterfall. Admission fees apply. www.powerscourt.com/waterfall/

Ticknock Hill. Free admission. Take a hike up Ticknock hill. More details here: www.theirishroadtrip.com/ticknock-walk/

Dún Laoghaire pier – take the train from Howth or Malahide to Dún Laoghaire and back again. Alternatively travel to Dún Laoghaire by boat and get the train back (Dublin Bay Cruises).

Explorium Science Museum. Admission fees apply. [www.explorium.ie](http://www.explorium.ie) (Re-opening in 2022).

**Meath**

Newgrange. World famous 5,200 year old passage tomb. Admission fees apply. More information here: www.newgrange.com

Hill of Tara. Inauguration site of the High Kings of Ireland, this hill was of huge importance in ancient Ireland. Admission to the hill itself is free, visits to the interpretation centre may attract fees. For more information, please visit [www.discoverboynevalley.ie/boyne-valley-drive/heritage-sites/hill-tara](http://www.discoverboynevalley.ie/boyne-valley-drive/heritage-sites/hill-tara).

Battle of the Boyne visitor centre. Admission fees apply. See battleoftheboyne.ie

Funtasia water park. Admission fees apply. [www.funtasia.ie](http://www.funtasia.ie)

Taytopark. Theme park. Admission fees apply. www.taytopark.ie

Trim castle and river walk. Medieval Castle. Admission fees may apply. For more information, see heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/trim-castle/

Balrath Woods. A small wood for outdoor adventures. Free admission. [www.balrathwoods.com](http://www.balrathwoods.com).

**Northern Ireland**

Armagh planetarium. Find out about space. Admission fees apply. www.armagh.space

Slieve Gullion loop walk, forest park and adventure playground. Free admission. www.ringofgullion.org/things-to-do/slieve-gullion-adventure-playpark/

W5 Belfast. Science and discovery centre. Admission fees apply. www.w5online.co.uk

Titanic museum, Belfast. Tells the story of the ill-fated Titanic ship. Admission fees apply. [www.titanicbelfast.com](http://www.titanicbelfast.com)