

Dublin City Council Bram Stoker Festival

Stokerland Relaxed Session St. Patrick's Park

Stokerland is open Saturday 24, Sunday 25 and Monday 26 October, 11:00am - 4:30pm each day. All are welcome to attend.

We have programmed a **relaxed session of Stokerland** which is open to all and will take place from **11:00am - 1:00pm on Monday 26 October.**

At the relaxed session, you can expect a tailored experience designed to welcome people who will benefit from a more relaxed environment including people who identify as neurodiverse, people on the autistic spectrum, people with sensory and communication disorders, ADHD, ADD, Tourette's, or with learning disabilities.

What is Stokerland?

Stokerland is a free, pop-up Victorian fun park for families and the eternally young.

With the stunning St. Patrick's Cathedral as a gothic backdrop, our ghoulish gathering features music, choirs, street theatre, a performance tent, free face-painting, a food market, storytelling, draw-alongs, bands, discos, dance parties, walkabout performers, art workshops and plenty of macabre thrills and ghoulish games for everyone to enjoy.

Gates for the Relaxed Session open at 11:00am on Monday 26 October - please do not arrive before then.

What will be different at the Relaxed Session of Stokerland?

The music will be quieter.

There will be no loud noises.

There will be no flashing lights.

Performances will be gentler in nature.

There will be a sensory unit available away from crowds and sounds, for those who require it: our staff will be there to help you.

This Relaxed Session of Stokerland is free and does not require booking.

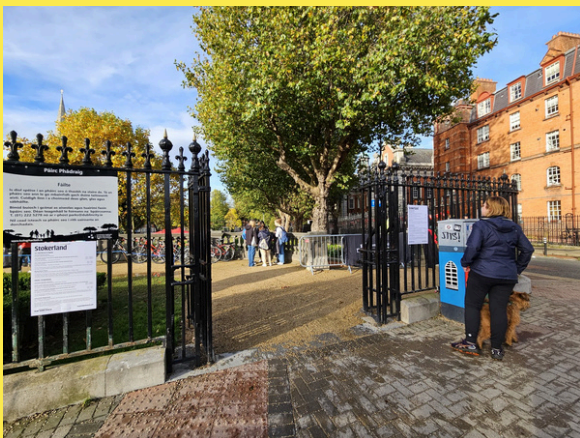
Welcome

When you arrive at the park, our friendly event staff will be there to greet you. The staff will be wearing hi-vis vests like this over their clothes:



Entrance

There are three entrances to St. Patrick's Park.
This is what they look like.



What does Stokerland look like when it's happening?

St. Patrick's Park will look like this while Stokerland is happening. The park will have lots of decorations, open-sided tents, food vendors and areas for play. If you want to move around and/or make noise during your time in the Park and the performances that is fine.



Food Vendors

There will be a number of food vendors on site. Here is a picture of the vendors. This is an example of what the vendors will look like. The below options may not be available on the day.



Sensory Unit

If you need to take a break you can go to the Sensory Unit which will look like the picture below.

To enter, ask someone in a hi-vis vest where the Sensory Unit is and they can bring you there.

There may be a short queue to enter as the unit is suitable for one family at a time.

You must bring one guardian into the Sensory Unit and you're also allowed to bring one sibling or a friend if you'd like to.



Street Performers

This is the Victorian Pirate!

He will be walking around the park doing juggling and circus tricks. He might show you some circus skills too. Keep an eye out for him.



Street Performance:

The Little Great Circus

Monday 26 October, 12.30pm - 1.00pm

About the Session

This is a tiny puppet show for one person at a time.

It is called a Lambe-Lambe show.

You will sit in front of a small theatre box and look through an opening to watch the show inside. Small puppets will perform a short circus and opera scene.



The show lasts about 2 minutes. It is just for you, so there is no big audience around you while you watch.

What to Expect



Sitting Down:

You will stay seated for the whole show.

Headphones:

You will wear headphones to hear the music. They block out noise from outside.

Watching:

Look through the opening to watch the puppets inside the box.

No Surprises:

There are no sudden movements towards you, and you do not need to join in.

Good to Know:

If your child does not like wearing headphones or hearing sound close to their ears, please keep this in mind before taking part.

Sensory Unit

Katie will be there to greet you.



Performances

Our relaxed performances will take place in these event tents.



Relaxed Workshops:

Bat Boogie Party Dance Party

Monday 26 October, 11.15am - 12.00pm

About this Session

When you arrive, you will meet Mia for a relaxed and welcoming dance workshop designed for our relaxed session. Together, we will stomp like monsters, creep like cats, swirl like ghosts, shake like skeletons, and boogie to fun beats. You are free to come and go as needed. Grown-ups are encouraged to get involved and share the fun too!

Music will be played at a low volume. If you prefer ear defenders, please bring your own.

Best suited for ages 2+
All abilities welcome



What to Expect

- **Warm-Up:** We will playfully shake out our skeletons to fun music.
- **Games:** A magical mirroring game and freeze dance, played as a group.
- **Across the Tent:** Moving around the tent, you will be guided to stomp like monsters, creep like cats, swirl like ghosts, shake like skeletons and more.
 - **Dances:** We will learn the festive Monster Mash steps and put it all together.
- **Props & Sounds:** Ribbons, sensory juggling scarves, shakers, feathers and spot mats may be used - children may join in or simply observe.



Spot Mats



Egg Shaker



Dance Ribbons



Feather



Juggling Scarves

Ending & Takeaways

At the end of this session, there will be a gentle cool-down. Children can collect a sticker and have the option to take a photo or have a quick chat with Mia before leaving, if they would like.

Access & Adjustments

We will do our best to make adjustments where possible - please speak to Mia before the session if your child would benefit from specific accommodations.

The atmosphere will be friendly and relaxed, with clear ground rules set in a positive way to help everyone feel safe.

Relaxed Performance:

Bits and Bobs Orchestra

Monday 26 October, 12.15pm - 1.00pm

About the Session

When you arrive, you will meet Adam and Megan from the Bits and Bobs Orchestra for a relaxed, sensory-friendly introduction to classical music, with games and stories.

Here is a photo of the musicians.

This is a relaxed, drop-in performance in a covered outdoor stretch tent. Children are welcome to move around, use fidgets, vocalise, or simply listen quietly - whatever feels right for them. You are free to come and go as needed to support your child's comfort.



What to Expect

Music:

Classical favourites mixed with pop songs, and some spooky Halloween treats.

Games & Stories:

The musicians will bring the music to life with games and stories.

Instruments:

You will hear instruments like the violin and tuba.

Joining in:

Join in however feels comfortable, or just listen.



Violin



Tuba

Access & Adjustments

We will do our best to make adjustments where possible - please speak to Adam and Megan before the performance if your child would benefit from specific accommodations.

Relaxed Workshop:

Vampire Lino Printing with Blaise Butler

Monday 26 October, 11.15am - 1.15pm

About the Session

When you arrive, you'll join the printmaking queue and print your own spooky vampire-themed lino design, guided by Blaise, the artist. This is a drop-in, hands-on activity with two people printing at a time.

You'll use a pre-carved lino stamp, washable lino ink, a rubber roller and paper to create your own vampire print. No printmaking experience is needed - everything is prepared for you.

Gloves will be provided and Blaise will guide you through each step.



What to Expect

Choose Your Design:

Pick a pre-carved vampire lino stamp.

Roll the Ink:

Roll the black washable ink onto the roller using an ink tray.

Ink Your Lino:

Roll the ink evenly over your lino stamp.

Make Your Print:

Press your inked lino onto the paper, just like a stamp!

Reveal Your Print:

Carefully lift the lino to see your vampire print.



Ending & Takeaways

You will have your own vampire print to take home. It needs about 4 days to fully dry, so carry it carefully and hang it somewhere safe. Once dry, you can frame it as a spooky Halloween decoration!

Access & Adjustments

You will stand at the printing station and use a small roller and ink, which can get a little messy. Gloves are provided.

If you or your child would benefit from a specific adjustment or support, please speak to Blaise and we will do our best to help.



Bells

St. Patrick's Cathedral has loud bells that sound every day at 12pm. During the Relaxed Session, this is between the two performances.

[CLICK HERE](#) to hear the bells so you will know what to expect!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I leave Stokerland and come back in?

Yes, you can leave and come back at any time.

Q: Can I bring fidget toys or headphones/ear defenders with me?

Yes. We want you to be comfortable so fidget toys and headphones/ear defenders are welcome.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will there be food and drink available?

Yes, there will be food and non-alcoholic drinks available in the event space. There is no alcohol allowed at this event. You are also very welcome to bring your own picnic or snacks.

Q: Will there be toilets available/where are the nearest toilets?

There are toilets at the event, including a wheelchair accessible toilet. If you need help finding them on the day please ask someone wearing a hi-vis vest where they are and they will direct you or can bring you to them.

Very Important Information to Know

What to Wear

This is an outdoor experience, so please dress for the weather. For example, if it's cold you may need some extra layers or if it rains you may need to pack a rain coat.

Accessibility

The venue is wheelchair accessible. Please visit the Stokerland page on our [website](#) for further accessibility information.