

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF IRELAND**

Westside Community Resource Centre,  
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[www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)

Foróige, National Youth Development Organisation provides a comprehensive range of youth work services through the operation of **Foróige Clubs, Local Youth Services, Local Youth Development Projects, Youth Information Centres** and the **Big Brother Big Sister Programme**.



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<http://www.bbbsireland.ie/support.php>



"We got on really well and even now four years later whenever I meet her we'll stop and have a chat. She still calls me her Big Sister".  
Big Sister, 2009, Roscommon

**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Ireland**

*Little time...Big difference*



**SCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAMME**



*It is about  
sharing, fun,  
laughing,  
learning,  
friendship...*

### **What is the Big Brother Big Sister School Mentoring Programme?**

This is an internationally renowned proven youth mentoring programme that forms a friendship between first year students and senior students within the school setting.

The main purpose of this programme is to ease the transition from primary to secondary school for these students while also providing an opportunity for senior students to give something back.

### **Who are the Big Brothers and Big Sisters volunteers?**

They are senior cycle students from 4th/5th year who have an interest in helping junior cycle students settle into school in the best possible way.

### **Who are the Little Brothers/Little Sisters?**

They are junior cycle students, generally in first year who would enjoy and benefit from a friendship with an older student.

### **How does the programme work?**

Volunteer students from the senior cycle are carefully selected and trained. They are then matched to a first year student who wishes to participate based on common interests, hobbies and personality. Meetings take place on a weekly basis.

### **How is the programme supported?**

These meetings are supervised and supported by a designated adult (School, BBBS Staff, Youth Service Staff or in some cases a trained adult volunteer). Each match will be supported for the length of their friendship during the school academic year.

### **What do matches do together when they meet?**

This is a fun "time out" programme. The matches meet once a week at a specific time and place within the school. Together students decide what they would like to do...play board games, chat, eat lunch, play sport... and take part in other activities available to them in their school.

Volunteers are asked to share an agreed time weekly with their little brother/sister. This may be either a lunch or class time, during school hours.

### **Involvement of Participants**






This is a voluntary programme. The involvement of all participants (parents, senior students, first year students and school staff) is crucial to the success of the programme.



### **POINTS TO NOTE**

*Matches are of the  
same gender and  
are one to one  
with shared  
interests and activities  
between mentor  
and mentee.*



-  The programme operates from September/October to April/May of the academic year
-  There is a designated person within the school that operates the programme with support from the BBBS Programme.
-  Weekly supervised meetings for matches take place within the school and last for 30-40 minutes approximately.
-  Written parental permission is required from all participants.
-  All participant must sign a contract that they will follow all the BBBS rules outlined