

Joan McCann

The Code Lab



CONTACT DETAILS

T: 086 8159271

E: info@thecodelab.ie

Instagram: [@thecodelab.ie](https://www.instagram.com/thecodelab.ie)

W: www.thecodelab.ie



Joan McCann had been volunteering with a community coding group when she realised she could marry the skills gleaned from her 15-year career in the IT industry with her passion for teaching kids about technology to create a viable business.

Launched in February 2021, her company, The Code Lab, offers online courses and hands-on workshops to children in coding, robotics, and electronics. The courses, which are recorded from Joan's studio in Castlebellingham, Co. Louth, are available through The Code Lab website.

"I record step-by-step lessons, allowing kids to code along at home and at their own pace. They can watch, pause, take a break, or return another day. All progress is saved on my user-friendly online learning platform," says the mother-of-four, whose CV boasts valuable experience with IT giants IBM and FINEOS.

Joan has a vision to empower children to be creators, not just consumers of technology. Her coding lessons extend beyond the realm of coding and technology, encompassing essential life skills such as problem-solving, logical thinking, and perseverance. She fosters creativity and freedom of expression through engaging and enjoyable educational exercises.

Joan plans to scale the business by expanding her portfolio of online courses, enabling kids to continue their coding journey from home. She also hopes to extend her educational reach to primary schools, allowing children all over Ireland benefit from coding lessons within their classrooms. This, she says, will offer a more affordable option for schools to include coding in their school.

While her growth plans are bold and ambitious, the IT expert says she draws strength from the unwavering support of her peers in the ACORNS programme. "Thanks to ACORNS I have a network of female entrepreneurs to support me as I continue to grow my business, and the confidence to make bold decisions for the future," adds Joan.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



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