



Grange Post-Primary School

Íarbhunscoil na Gráinsí

Windows of Opportunity



Telephone No: (071) 9163514
Email: secretary@grangepps.ie

Fax: (071) 9163118
Website: www.grangepps.ie

Principal's Foreword



Choosing a second-level school is a key decision for any student and their parent/ guardian. While the courses offered and syllabi taught are common in all second-level schools, the hidden curriculum or underlying value system of a school can and will play a vital role in the personal development, academic attainment, motivation levels and the self-confidence/ self-esteem of your child. Here at Grange Post Primary, we are keenly aware of this and offer a holistic education with core values of **self-esteem, justice and respect**, with equal regard for academic and personal growth.

Grange PPS maintains a consistently strong academic record, achieving grades at the highest level across all subject areas. This reflects the fact that we ensure our students have access to, and are strongly encouraged, to take subjects at higher level. Facilitated by a dedicated, committed and highly competent teaching team, who employ innovative student- centred methodologies to encourage and guide students to reach their potential.

Grange Post Primary aims to develop your child into a well-rounded functioning member of society. We place great emphasis on an inclusive community, where all members are respectful of the uniqueness of those around them. We promote positive behaviour and reinforce positive values through our pastoral care programme. We do not condone bullying and take pride in our proactive approach to anti-bullying awareness through a series of ongoing workshops and initiatives.

In addition to our academic curriculum, we provide a wide range of cultural experiences and a varied extra-curricular activity programme in a mixed gender setting to promote balanced social development and well-being. As you read through this prospectus you will get a flavour of the variety of pursuits currently on offer, with music and sport in particular, deeply embedded in the school culture.

As the Principal of Grange Post Primary I would like to welcome you to join our school community, confident that your child will thrive here and that the holistic education they receive will enhance their own lives and the lives of others.

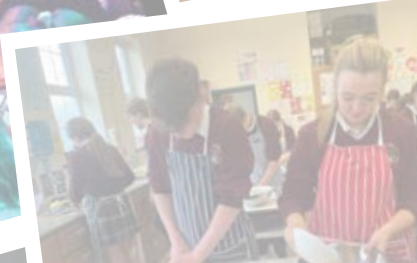
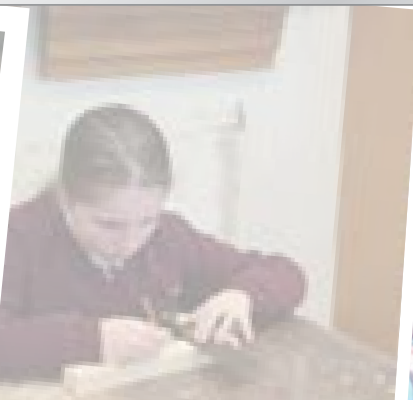
Eimear Harte

Principal



MISSION STATEMENT
Grange Post Primary is a partnership of Staff, Students and Parents enabling each student to achieve his/ her full potential.

We aim to inspire a Love of Learning in all our students, irrespective of ability and through personable and enthusiastic encouragement lead all on to develop as Caring, Respectful Individuals in a challenging world.





CURRICULUM OFFERED:

We are pleased to be able to offer a broad range of subjects within the following programme choices:

- Junior Cycle
- Transition Year Programme
- Leaving Certificate Programme
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

JUNIOR CYCLE

<p>Core exam: English Irish Mathematics Science History</p>	<p>Short Programmes of Study (exam optional) Coding Physical Education (PE) SPHE CSPE</p>	<p>Optional Subjects Visual Art Music Wood Technology Geography Engineering Home Economics Graphics Business Studies French Spanish</p>
<p>Core non exam/ Wellbeing Subjects: Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Guidance Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE) Physical Education (PE) Wellbeing</p>		<p>Subject bands are determined by student preferences / demand.</p>

Our teachers have engaged very proactively, over the past five years, in CPD training for delivery of the new Junior Cycle programme. As a result several of our current teachers are now involved in delivering training to other teachers at the highest levels. Our short programme delivery is also at an advanced stage, with Coding in particular running for 6 years now.

TRANSITION YEAR

Core subjects:

Irish	Creative Writing Programme
Music	Business Enterprise
Geography	Construction Studies
Computer Coding	Physical Education
Film Studies	Maths
Engineering	French
Creative Development (Art)	Design Communication Graphics
Food Studies	Science by Inquiry
Work experience	History
GAA Future Leaders Programme	Spanish
ICT	Careers
3D Printing	

Humanities Module: (varies)

Photography Workshop
 First Aid Module
 Driving Module
 Educational Speakers
 Workshops e.g. drama & theatre
 RSE/ Lifeskills

Competition:

AIB Build a Bank Competition
 NIFTY Competition/Young Enterprise
 Competition
 Formula 1 competition
 Scratch Coding Competition
 Young Social Innovators (YSI)

NOTE: All transition years follow all the components above to provide a broad curriculum and enhance a wide range of skills and competencies. All modules are continually assessed for certification purposes. Workshops, educational outings and speakers vary in line with the interests of the particular group. One educational outing per term and a foreign tour at Easter are components of our transition year programme.

A school show or performance e.g. Lip Sync is organised by TY students each year.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE AND LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)

Core exam subjects:

English
 Irish
 Mathematics

LCVP Link Modules:

World of Work
 Enterprise of Education

Core non exam subjects:

Physical Education (PE)
 Career Guidance and
 Information Technology (IT)

Optional subjects:

Art Craft and Design	Music
Construction Studies	Business Studies
Home Economics	Biology
Geography	Agricultural Science
Physics	Chemistry
Design Communication Graphics (DCG)	Engineering
Phys. / Chem. combined	Spanish
French	

Note: Subject option bands offered for the Leaving Certificate Programmes are determined by student demand. Students are provided with Career Guidance advice and consultation with parents is encouraged prior to making decisions.



Extra – Curricular Activities

Sports

Sports activities play a strong part in the Grange Post Primary school culture.

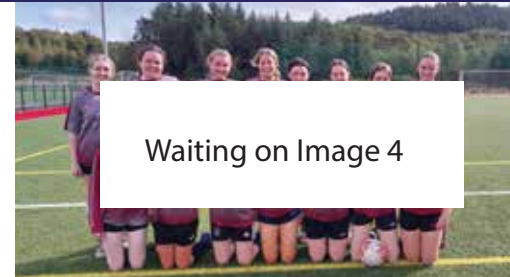
There are a wide variety of sports offered for both boys and girls. These include Soccer, Gaelic Football, Basketball, Athletics, Girls Active, Chess Club and Table Tennis.

In **Soccer** and **Gaelic** Football, male and female students compete across a variety of age categories, in a range of competitions. Following an intensive training regime and expert coaching in these sports over recent years, our teams are going from strength to strength eg. in 2019 our girls reached the Connacht Semi Final and the boys won the Connacht Cup at U-17 and U-19 level.

In **Basketball**, significant development work has also paid off, with male and female teams competing strongly in the League and County Blitzes. Our current U16 team are Regional Champions 2018 and will now progress to the All-Ireland series. Additionally, our U19 boys' team are Regional Champions.

Grange Post Primary has a strong **athletics** tradition with students competing in County, Regional and All-Ireland events in both Track & Field and Cross-Country competitions. Our students have maintained a consistent record of winning record numbers of medals each year in the County Sports event.

Grange Post Primary run the **Girls Active programme**, a joint initiative run between the HSE North West and Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership to encourage and increase girl's participation in sport. We ensure that the sports chosen are fun, interactive and non-competitive to achieve maximum participation. Our girls have experienced a wide variety of activities this year including **Hip-hop dance, Zumba, Basketball and Trampolining.**



Music and performance:

Grange Post Primary School Choir is made up of students from 1st to 6th year. They rehearse once a week after school and have workshops throughout the year.

They have performed in the Hawk's Well Theatre, Model Niland Sligo and with the Celtic Tenors in Lissadell Church. Throughout the year they take part in various school events and have participated in concerts in aid of the Northwest Hospice, MS Ireland, Sligo Cancer Support Centre and Sligo Academy of Music.

The choir provides a safe place for like-minded students to come together to enjoy vocal training, singing and dance. Long lasting friendships are made with fun along the way. They have taken trips to see musicals such as Blood Brothers, Big, Matilda and Chicago.



Every year the students of Grange Post Primary organise a School Show/Performance. Shows have included Talent Shows , Variety Shows and Musicals. Our shows are designed to provide an opportunity for our students to express themselves and develop and enhance their communication, teamwork and organisational skills as well as memories that will last a lifetime!!

This year the school performance was Lip Sync Battles'.

TY offers enhanced opportunities to develop creative talents and experiences. Through workshops and structured modules, TY students have developed **bands** that have performed in front of the school and wider community and established a “**trad group**” open to all students at lunch time.

Afterschool Study/ Homework Club

After school study is provided three/four evenings per week. It is a strictly quiet study setting designed to acclimatise students to examination conditions and it is supervised by a teacher. Spaces are limited and priority is given to students in examination years. Fees are payable per term.

Homework club is provided for one hour four evenings per week i.e. Monday to Thursday inclusive. Spaces are limited and priority is given to students with Special Education Needs as determined by the SEN department. This is a setting where a teacher or special needs assistant is available to offer support and help to complete homework assignments. No fees are payable.

Gaisce

The President's Award is the most prestigious award in Ireland for young people aged 15 to 25. The Award programme is a challenge from the President of Ireland to young people to get involved in their community, set personal goals for themselves in terms of physical recreation and personal skill and undertake an adventure journey as a member of a team.

To date, we have had students complete the Gaisce Award to the highest level, receiving Bronze, Silver and Gold medals. We are very proud of all our Gaisce recipients.



Library/ reading room: As an alternative to other more active pursuits, we have provided access to the library in the English room at lunch time each day where books can be exchanged, facilitated by transition year students, to provide students with a quiet space in which to enjoy the pleasure of reading.

EDUCATIONAL / CULTURAL TRIPS, TOURS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Educational trips, cultural tours and guest speakers are a vital component of education in today's world. For learning to be relevant it must be linked directly to the "real world" and "real life" and enhance knowledge of the world around us. Studies have shown that experiencing learning, through seeing a process occur in a factory or hearing first-hand a description of an event, greatly enhance understanding of and retention of learning.

Additionally, trips out of school partaking in fun activities provides an ideal medium for group bonding to aid the induction of students new to the school and enhance relationships within established school groups.

In planning for trips and tours every effort is made to keep the cost to a minimum for parents.

Some of our speakers have included "anti-racism" group, "bully4u", St Vincent de Paul, Crumlin Children's hospital, AIB build a bank, "Amazing Brains Study Skills Workshop".

School trips have included an Art Exhibition, Donegal Outdoor Adventure centre, local and national business e.g. Google, Butler's Chocolate Factory and Sailing in Mullaghmore.



Foreign Tours are scheduled each year and have included Italy, Paris and Barcelona of late.

SCHOOL SERVICES AND STRUCTURES.

CAREER GUIDANCE:

Grange Post Primary School offers a variety of guidance services to all students so that they can make informed choices about their future in relation to employment, education and training. The guidance services are divided into three areas:

- Personal and Social Guidance and Counselling.
- Educational Guidance and Counselling.
- Careers Guidance and Counselling.



The guidance services are provided via:

- One-to-one guidance to motivate students to engage in and take an active role in their personal, educational and career development.
- One-to-one guidance relating to personal issues as necessary.
- Identifying individual needs using a variety of techniques including guidance interviews, psychometric assessment, computer-aided guidance packages and other evaluative instruments.
- Using information technology for a wide range of administrative and informational tasks.
- Specific guidance classes for senior cycle students.
- Guidance related modules as part of the Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme.

WELLBEING:

All Junior Cycle students undertake an area of learning called Wellbeing. Wellbeing crosses the three years of Junior Cycle and builds on substantial work already taking place in our schools to support students' Wellbeing.

We envisage that the school's commitment to this area of learning will increasingly have a positive impact on the Wellbeing of the students. It will include learning opportunities to further enhance the physical, mental, emotional and social Wellbeing of students.

In addition to programmes of study in PE, SPHE and CSPE students study additional modules under their Wellbeing programme. These modules are based on the identified needs of the students and include topics such as resilience training, mindfulness, meditation, guidance related learning, bonding trips, school based workshops etc.

PASTORAL CARE:

The Pastoral Care Team consists of the following groups, a Student Support Team, Year Heads, the Class Tutors, the SPHE teachers, the Career Guidance Counsellor and Management.

The main aim of the Pastoral Care Team is to ensure all our students are safe and well, that their developmental needs are being met adequately and any welfare issues arising will be addressed. Through this policy we address bullying, student induction, the expectations of the code of behaviour and any concerns regarding the mental or physical health of our students.

GOVERNMENT-FREE SCHOOL BOOKS SCHEME:

The Irish Government's Free School Books Scheme, introduced in 2023, is designed to support families by providing all primary and post-primary school students with access to essential schoolbooks, workbooks, and copybooks at no cost. This initiative aims to ease the financial burden on parents, ensuring that every student can fully engage with their education regardless of family income.

For post-primary students, the scheme is implemented through schools, which receive funding to purchase necessary learning materials on behalf of their students. This means families no longer need to worry about sourcing or purchasing books each year. The school retains ownership of these materials, encouraging students to care for their books and return them at the end of the school year.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS:

In Grange Post Primary we pride ourselves on our inclusive school community which respects each individual regardless of ability. Support for Special Educational Needs is addressed by the Learning Support Team, coordinated by two Special Needs Teachers and supported by resource teachers, class teachers, special needs assistants and external agencies, subject to available resources.

All students are assessed on entry to the school in line with Department requirements and if support is necessary, additional classes of literacy and numeracy may be offered subject to available resources. Parental permission is necessary for students to be withdrawn for these additional classes.

If your child has previously been assessed by an educational or clinical psychologist this may enable us to make applications to the Department of Education for additional supports to meet your child's needs. It is essential that any such reports be made available to the school at the earliest opportunity.





Sarah Hegarty representing Ireland at the European Youth Start Entrepreneurship Finals in Kitzbuhel, Austria where she was awarded a Bronze medal for her company - Girls in the Game



SCHOOL TRANSPORT:

The school bus transport scheme is now fully operated and administered by Bus Eireann. Please contact them directly for queries.

SCHOOL LUNCHES:

At Grange PPS we have linked in with the Food Village, where we serve up fresh, hot, tasty, and affordable meals everyday. We offer over 200+ full meals, snacks, treats, and drinks for both students and teaching staff. Our pre-paid ordering system allows you to set menus for a single day, an entire week, or even repeat orders for as long as you need. Our meals are prepared using local produce by our team of talented chefs, ensuring that every bite is fresh and nutritious.



SCHOOL STRUCTURES AND POLICIES.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES:

Grange Post Primary operates within the following structure:

- Grange Post Primary is a member school of Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education and Training Board as of July 2013, formerly Sligo VEC.
- We operate under the guidance of our Board of Management.

In addition to the staff and management of Grange Post Primary we value the input of the following representative groups:

- The Parent's Association.
- The Student Council.

SCHOOL TIMETABLE:

Monday to Thursday	Friday
Start time: 9.00am Break: 15mins Lunch: 35mins Finish time: 3.55pm	Start time: 9.00am Break: 15mins Finish time: 1.00pm
Classes: 9 by 40 mins	Classes: 5 by 40 mins & Humanities (20 mins)



Leaving Certificate 2024 student Ben Noone wins 2nd prize for his Engineering Project at the Area 4 ETTA awards

Junior classes must remain on-site all day and can only be permitted to leave if collected by a parent. Senior students may go up town at lunchtime provided they are in full uniform and adhere to the school Code of Behaviour at all times, otherwise the privilege is withdrawn.

UNIFORM

Grange Post Primary has a strict uniform policy that must be adhered to by all students.

Our uniforms are stocked by Mullaney Bros, O'Connell Street, Sligo and Moffitts, O Connell Street, Sligo. However, we have negotiated a deal to purchase jackets directly from the company at a significantly reduced price. Fittings and ordering will be carried out in early September and we recommend parents take this route.



Girls- Maroon jumper with school crest, white collared blouse, school tie, school grey trousers/ school skirt, black leather school shoes (unbranded) and school jacket.

Boys- Maroon jumper with school crest, white collared shirt, school tie, school grey trousers, black leather school shoes (unbranded) and school jacket. Unbranded refers to no stitching of brand names such as Lonsdale/Nike etc. being present

PE Uniform

Playr-Fit package includes

- Quarter Zip Top
- Training Tee Shirt
- Tracksuit Bottoms/Leggings
- Shorts
- Socks



SCHOOL POLICIES:

Grange Post Primary School has a variety of policies central to the running of our school, they may be viewed by visiting our website www.grangepps.ie and following the link at the top called "School Policies". Alternatively, a request can be made to the school for a paper copy of any of the policies listed.

Note: all parents will receive a copy of the Code of Behaviour on enrolment night as agreement with this is necessary to complete the enrolment process.

RECENT ANALYSIS INDICATORS

Well then- you need look no further than Grange Post Primary School. Our most recent analysis indicators can attest to our academic success record:

- **100% success** rate in **Maths** examination in Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations over the past **5 years**- despite high levels of failure nationally during this timeframe.
- **Prize winners at National Level** in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2022, 2023 and 2024 for **Leaving Certificate Engineering and Technology projects**.
- Consistently strong Leaving Certificate **results** with consistently high numbers of students pursuing subjects at **higher level** and **excellent levels of transfer** into third level colleges, apprenticeship programmes and Fetac courses from our graduates.
- Feedback on the schools progress and the **new Junior Cycle Programme** from visiting inspectors and advisors ranks us significantly ahead and highly commend our **innovative** and **adaptive approach**.
- **Excellence in Teaching and Learning:**
2017 – Whole School Inspection -“ very effective leadership & management”, “**care for the individual student** central to the schools ethos”, “**great flexibility** in developing the schools’ curriculum- enhancing subject choice, implementing the new JC and TY”, “exceptionally high levels of volunteerism among staff...to support schools development”, “exceptionally well developed system for **dealing with bullying issues**”
- **2019 PE Inspection** - “ Quality of Teaching and Learning is **exemplary**” “ excellent integration of PE into a highly developed whole school Well-being programme”
- **2019 Business Inspection** - “highly effective practice, facilitating students in becoming **independent learners**”



- ✓ Mixed gender Co-educational Secondary School .
- ✓ Smaller class sizes.
- ✓ Proven consistent academic excellence record.
- ✓ Innovative highly qualified teaching team.
- ✓ Wide variety of extra-curricular sporting activities including basketball, football, athletics and girls active.
- ✓ Cultural development programme including arts, music, choir (first place position in Sligo school choir competition).
- ✓ Range of specialist labs e.g. Science, engineering, woodwork, art/ music, Home Economics, DCG.
- ✓ Wide comprehensive variety of subject choices available.
- ✓ Open systems of communication with parents to keep them informed e.g. VS ware.
- ✓ Fully equipped Gym, Astro Turf soccer pitch and Athletics track on-site.
- ✓ Excellent IT facilities including a dedicated computer room and a DCG computer lab, Apple TV in classrooms, use of interactive teaching methods using Office 365 as a Learning Platform, including student emails.
- ✓ Full after school Programme of activities every evening.
- ✓ Positive Code of Behaviour and positive behaviour awards.
- ✓ A nurturing school environment.

**GIVE YOUR CHILD THE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN A THRIVING SCHOOL
RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP - JOIN US IN GRANGE POST PRIMARY.**