



Grange Post-Primary School

Íarbhunscoil na Gráinsí

windows of opportunity



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Principal's Foreword



At Grange Post Primary School, we are deeply aware that choosing a post-primary school is one of the most important decisions for any family. While subjects and syllabi may be similar across schools, it is the culture, values, and atmosphere that truly shape a student's experience. Here in Grange, we pride ourselves on offering a holistic education founded on respect, justice, and self-esteem. Every student is supported and encouraged to achieve their potential, both academically and personally.

We have a strong tradition of academic success, with consistently high results across all subject areas and excellent progression to third-level study, apprenticeships, and further training. This success is underpinned by our highly qualified and committed staff, who employ innovative, student-focused approaches to teaching and learning. We place a strong emphasis on higher-level attainment and provide the guidance, encouragement, and resources necessary for our students to excel.

Education at Grange PPS is about more than examinations. We are proud to provide a broad and balanced curriculum alongside a wide range of extra-curricular and cultural activities. From sport, music, and drama to enterprise, coding, and creative arts, our students are given opportunities to discover their talents, explore new interests, and develop the confidence and skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

Wellbeing and care are central to our ethos. Through our pastoral structures, guidance counselling, and anti-bullying initiatives, we ensure that each student feels safe, valued, and supported. We are an inclusive school community that celebrates diversity and provides tailored support for students with additional needs, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Our facilities—including specialist classrooms, modern IT resources, a gym, astro turf pitch, and athletics track—create an excellent environment for learning and development. Combined with the dedication of our staff and the active involvement of parents, this allows us to prepare our students for a challenging and ever-changing world.

I invite you to explore this prospectus and see for yourself the opportunities that await at Grange Post Primary School. I am confident that your child will flourish here, growing into a confident, respectful, and capable individual, ready to make a positive contribution to society.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'John Maddock'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

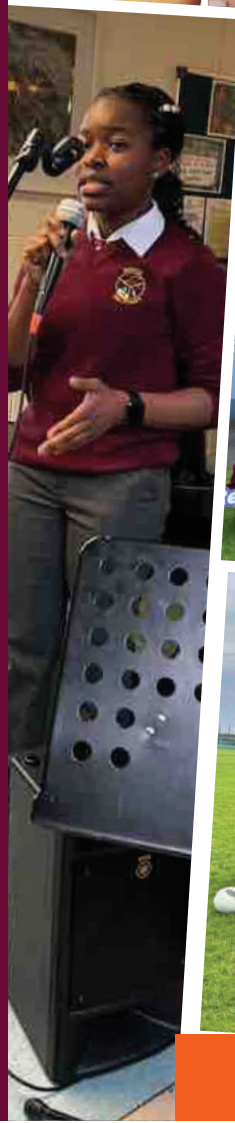
John Maddock
Principal



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.



WHY CHOOSE GRANGE POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL?

At Grange Post Primary, we take pride in knowing every student as an individual. With approximately 300 students, our school is at the heart of the Grange community. We are large enough to offer a wide range of subjects and opportunities, yet small enough to ensure that every student is supported, encouraged and valued.

This caring environment, combined with our strong academic focus, means students are given the time and attention they need to reach their full potential.

Our track record speaks for itself:

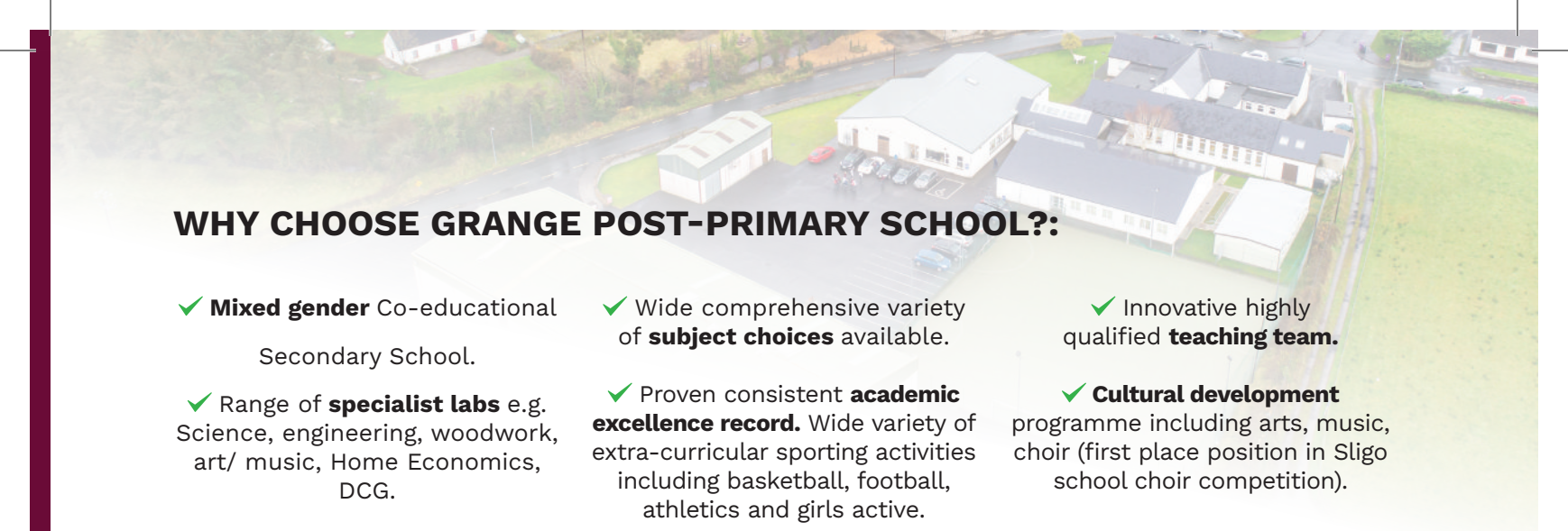
100% success rate in Maths in Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations over the past five years, despite high national failure rates during this period.

National prize winners in Leaving Certificate Engineering and Technology projects (2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024).

Consistently strong Leaving Certificate results, with high numbers of students taking higher-level subjects and progressing to third-level colleges, apprenticeships and Further Education and Training (FET) courses.

Positive inspection reports highlighting our innovative teaching, strong pastoral care, and well-developed systems for student support.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning recognised in Whole School Inspection (2017) and subject inspections in PE (2019) and Business (2019), praising exemplary practice, integration of wellbeing, and fostering of independent learners.



WHY CHOOSE GRANGE POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL?:

✓ **Mixed gender** Co-educational Secondary School.

✓ Range of **specialist labs** e.g. Science, engineering, woodwork, art/ music, Home Economics, DCG.

✓ Fully equipped **Gym, Astro Turf soccer pitch and Athletics track on-site.**

✓ Wide comprehensive variety of **subject choices** available.

✓ Proven consistent **academic excellence record.** Wide variety of extra-curricular sporting activities including basketball, football, athletics and girls active.

✓ **Excellent IT facilities** including a dedicated computer room and a DCG computer lab, use of interactive teaching methods using Office 365 as a Learning Platform, including student emails.

✓ Innovative highly qualified **teaching team.**

✓ **Cultural development** programme including arts, music, choir (first place position in Sligo school choir competition).

FEEDBACK FROM OUR STUDENTS HIGHLIGHTS:

Friendly and Supportive Staff: The positive remarks about the teachers reflect their approachability and dedication to helping students succeed.

Strong Sense of Community: Students consistently highlighted the welcoming and friendly atmosphere, making it easy to build friendships and feel included.

Personalised Learning Environment: The small class sizes allow for more individualised attention from teachers, helping students to thrive academically and socially.

Junior Cycle Curriculum (1st, 2nd & 3rd Years)

Since its introduction in 2015, Grange Post Primary has actively engaged with all aspects of Junior Cycle reform. The changes brought about by the new Junior Cycle are now well established in our school, and students are benefiting from teachers who are fully up to date with professional development in line with the new framework. Our short programme delivery is also at an advanced stage, with Coding in particular running for 10 years now.

We are proud that members of our teaching staff have contributed on a national scale, supporting teachers across Ireland in implementing Junior Cycle changes. This ensures that our students benefit not only from the reforms themselves but also from the expertise of staff directly involved in shaping best practice.

Junior Cycle Curriculum (1st, 2nd & 3rd Years):

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

Core Subjects	Wellbeing Programme subjects and Short Courses	Choice Subjects (Students choose four)	
English	Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)	Visual Art	Home Economics
Irish		Music	Graphics
Mathematics	Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE)	Wood Technology	Business Studies
Science	Physical Education (PE)	Geography	French
History	Guidance	Engineering	Spanish
	Coding (Short Course)		



Transition Year Programme (4th Year Optional):

TRANSITION YEAR

Core exam:

English
Irish
Music
Geography
Computer Coding
Film Studies Maths
Engineering
Creative Development (Art)
Food Studies
Work experience
GAA Future Leaders Programme

ICT

3D Printing
Creative Writing Programme
Business Enterprise
Construction Studies
Physical Education
Maths
French
Design Communication Graphics
Science by Inquiry
History
Spanish
Careers

Competition:

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

Humanities Module: (varies)

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

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.



Senior Cycle Curriculum (5th & 6th Years):

At Grange Post Primary, we are equally committed to the ongoing redevelopment of the Senior Cycle. Several of our teachers are participating in development groups with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), which are made up of a small number of educators from across the country. Their involvement allows us to embed new approaches at an early stage and to prepare students for upcoming changes.

By the time incoming first years reach Senior Cycle, all subjects are expected to be revised. This means every Leaving Certificate subject will include an additional assessment component worth at least 40% of the overall grade, ensuring a broader and more balanced approach to student achievement. Senior Cycle Curriculum (5th & 6th Years):

We offer a broad range of subjects across our programmes. Subject option bands for the Leaving Certificate are determined by student demand. Students are provided with Career Guidance, and consultation with parents is encouraged before final subject choices are made.

Core Subjects	Core (non-exam)	Choice Subjects (Students choose four)	
English	Physical Education (PE)	French	Home Economics
Irish	Career Guidance	Spanish	Design Communication Graphics (DCG)
Mathematics	Information Technology (IT)	Music	Biology
LCVP Link Modules: World of Work Enterprise Education	Social, Personal And Health Education (SPHE)	Business Studies	Agricultural Science
		Engineering	Chemistry
		Geography	Physics Physics/Chemistry Combined
		Art, Craft and Design	
		Construction Studies	

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.



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.

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.

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 organisational skills, build confidence and create 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.





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.

PE School Uniform

Playr-Fit package includes

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



SCHOOL TIMETABLE:

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

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



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.



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

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES:

Grange Post Primary operates within the following structure:

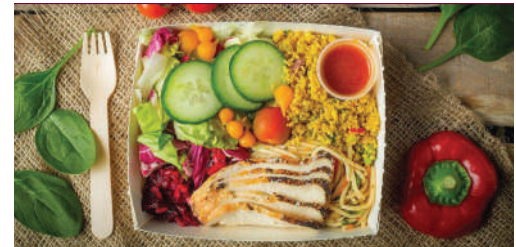
- Grange Post Primary is a member school of Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education and Training Board as of July 2013, formerly Sligo VEC.
- We operate under the guidance of our Board of Management.

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 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.



EXTRA - CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sports

Sport plays a central role in Grange Post Primary's culture, with opportunities for boys and girls in Soccer, Gaelic Football, Basketball, Athletics, Girls Active and Table Tennis.

Our teams compete successfully at county, regional and national levels, supported by expert coaching and strong student commitment. A highlight in recent years was when our girls reached the Connacht Semi-Final and our boys won the Connacht Cup at U-17 and U-19 level.

The Girls Active programme, run in partnership with the HSE North West and Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, encourages girls' participation in fun, non-competitive activities such as hip-hop dance, Zumba, basketball and trampolining.

Clubs & Activities

Beyond sport, students have many opportunities to develop their talents and interests:

Chess Club – building strategy, focus and friendly competition.

School Choir – performing at school and community events.



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

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