



Crana College *Prospectus 2024/25*



U14 Girls Soccer All Ireland Champions

Excellence in Education

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Donegal ETB





Mission Statement

It is our mission to create a calm, caring and creative environment where all pupils are given the best opportunities to develop their potential to the full, to acquire knowledge and to adopt a positive attitude towards work, life and their community.

Core Values

Like all ETB schools, Crana College is a state, co-educational, multi denominational school underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect



I am delighted to introduce Crana College to you through this prospectus and to give you a brief insight into our vibrant, close and happy school community.

At Crana College, we set high standards and ambitious goals. Our Aim, Mission statement and Core Values, above, are a realistic summary of what we set out to achieve. You will

notice that we put our pupils at the centre of the statement. We are a pupil-centred school in that we promote the full development of all students. I feel that the spirit of Crana College lies in our commitment to help all our pupils to realise their fullest academic, moral, social and physical potential. In other words, we want our students to be successful - but we want them to be healthy, happy and to learn to value others so that they can become responsible members of their own community. Most important of all, we want every individual to be treated fairly and with respect so that they can enjoy school life.

Throughout its history Crana College has been renowned for the quality of the education it provides to its students. In recent years we have come to be seen in the community as a provider of top grade education, catering for the needs of our comprehensive intake of students. We do not pre-judge our First Years but instead we give them a chance to find their feet, to try out new subjects before they choose which ones they will study. We do not immediately label students in an academic sense but wait several months before discussing which level of examination work they are best suited to. We offer a large and varied range of subjects and educational opportunities to our students.

We also offer an extraordinary range of activities and extra-curricular opportunities outside of the classroom. Students compete in sports as diverse as Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, rugby, soccer, basketball and athletics. Have a look at the extra-curricular section in this prospectus to get an idea of the out-of-class opportunities given to our students.

We look forward to meeting our new students during school visits and on Transfer Day. By the end of May they will have spent time in Crana College, sampled some of the subjects and will have met their Year Head, Class tutors and teachers.

As Principal, I am proud to be part of this community, especially when I witness so much success in the busy school life of all our pupils. Our success is firmly rooted in the excellent relationship which exists between students and teachers and we are especially proud of the atmosphere of trust, support and mutual respect which is central to our Ethos and the life of the school. You might not fully appreciate the range of experiences we offer at Crana College at our Open Night but I hope that you will get a flavour of things here. If you feel that you would like more information, then I invite you to make an appointment for a short personalised tour of the school with either myself, our Deputy Principal or one of our Assistant Principals to see our school community in action.

I can assure you that our excellent team of teachers and I will do everything that we can to help your son or daughter to settle quickly into our school community, to reach their potential in their studies and achieve Excellence in their Education. I personally am grateful for the help and co-operation that I have had from parents in the past and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Kevin Cooley
Principal



Message from the Deputy Principals

I hope that this prospectus gives you an insight into what we offer here in Crana College for your child. We have a balanced curriculum, a wide range of extracurricular activities and a number of supports available for students. We are a caring and supportive school with a restorative approach and want our students to enjoy school and to reach their potential academically and socially and to develop their talents. We have exceptional students, teachers, and staff in our school that work together to achieve success. Please visit our website www.cranacollege.com and our social media platforms to gain further information on our school.

Sinead Anderson
Deputy Principal

Philip McGuinness
Deputy Principal

The School Management Team

The Crana College Management Team is made up of the Principal, Deputy Principals and Assistant Principals. This team meets regularly to monitor all aspects of school development. The Deputy Principals are Mrs Sinead Anderson and Mr Philip McGuinness. Assistant Principals (1) are Mrs Anne McFadden, Mrs Annemarie Walsh, Mrs Anne McElhinney, Mr Rory O'Neill, Mr JJ McDermott, Mrs Tanya Morrison, Mrs Shirley McConalogue and Ms Sylvia McSheffrey.

The Board of Management

Crana College is governed by a Board of Management which is composed of two parent representatives, two teacher representatives and four Donegal ETB Representatives as well as the Principal. The Board are fully supportive of the role of the Management and staff in

inspiring students “to learn, to think, to care and to achieve” and are rigorous in their scrutiny of the College's activities. Members of the Board are trained in the functions and responsibilities for the management of the school and for the provision of appropriate education for all its students. The Board of Management have identified as a priority their role in continuing to provide a high class education to all students in Crana College and the members of the Board were praised for their commitment to the College during the last Whole School Evaluation.

The Student Council

The Student Council, established in the school in 2001, is a representative structure through which students in the school can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students. In Crana College the Student Council is comprised of a group of students, democratically elected annually in September from each year group to represent the student body within the Crana College Organisational Structure and to give students an opportunity to voice their opinion on day to day issues. The Student Council hold regular monthly meetings allowing students the opportunity to discuss and resolve with management, issues which have been brought to their attention by members of the student body. The College is also represented on the Donegal Youth Council by students who were successful in the Inishowen elections held in October.

The Parents' Association

The Parents' Association was first established in September 2012. Although the members of the Parents' Association are prepared to assist with fundraising this is not their primary function. Essentially, the Parents' Association is active in helping to create a partnership between the home and the school and gives parents a deeper insight into what goes on in Crana College. Anything that is of importance to parents in the school will be referred to the Parents' Association e.g. relevant school policies and codes, discussion on uniform or consultation on homework. Information is provided to parents on new developments, e.g. the SPHE programme, the introduction of ICT initiatives, Careers talks. Their role in advising the College's management on issues of importance is vital if we are to provide mutual help and support in the education of our students.

Parents/Guardians of incoming first years will get further information on the Parents' Association at the 1st year Parent Information evening in October.



Student Leadership Team

Our Head Girl and Head Boy are elected in September of each year by the 6th year students and staff. Students are interviewed for the role by the management team. Our Head girl for 2023-2024 is Méabh McConalogue and Head Boy is Euan O Brien. A number of other 6th year students are selected for the student leadership team all of whom act as role models and contribute to a wide range of activities and events in the school.

Student Voice Committee

The student voice committee was established in November 2018. It comprises of a group of 1st-6th year students who meet throughout the year to express their view and opinion on various aspects of school life.



First Year Programme

Clár na Céad Bliana

Crana College is currently one of the largest growing schools in Donegal and one of the virtues of being a large school is the extensive range of subjects on offer. All our teachers use modern technology, computers, projectors, chromebooks, tablets, google classroom and iPads in their teaching. We live in a digital world and this is reflected in the style of education delivered at Crana College.

The First Year Programme in Crana College is the first year of the New Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. Crana College prides itself in providing a varied curriculum for students allowing great accessibility for all needs.

For the first six weeks students complete a taster programme where they try out all our practical subjects before they choose which two they wish to continue studying. This allows everyone to make an informed decision and work with staff on deciding which subject best suits their needs.

Two subjects are chosen from the list of practical subjects:

*Wood Technology *Engineering *Home Economics
*Applied Technology *Visual Art *Graphics
*Music *Coding & Digital Media Literacy.

In addition two subjects are chosen from;

*Geography, *Business and/or *Spanish.

All students also get the opportunity to study a vast curriculum inclusive of the following subjects:

*English, *Irish, *Mathematics, *Science, *History, Religious Education (RE), Wellbeing: Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE), Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE), Physical Education (PE)



Junior Cycle

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) has put in place this programme for young people in the first three years of their post-primary education. It builds on and advances the vision for junior cycle reform that was outlined in the Framework for Junior Cycle (2012). The Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) incorporates a shared understanding of how teaching, learning and assessment practices should evolve to support the delivery of a quality, inclusive and relevant education that will meet the needs of junior cycle students, both now and in the future. This shared understanding is informed by engagement with stakeholders and by national and international research. The student will receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) which will be a more comprehensive report on all the student's learning and achievements over the three-year junior cycle. There will be classroom based assessments and there will be final examinations, these examinations will be marked externally by the State Examinations Commission (as are the current Junior Certificate examinations.)



What has Crana College got in place?

Beginning in September 2014 and continuing up to present, changes are being introduced to the Junior Certificate examination. The revised Junior Cert is known as the Junior Cycle and students will receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. There is a focus on encouraging students to learn through thinking rather than relying on 'learning by heart', digital technology will be more prominent in teaching and learning and there will be different methods used to assess students with less emphasis on one single examination in June. Your child will be studying the new junior cycle curriculum for all subjects in 1st year.

The management and teachers of Crana College have attended training to ensure that our students are properly prepared for the new course. Crana College also has a distinct advantage in introducing the Junior Cycle as we have/had four members of staff Tanya Morrison (Whole School), Philip McGuinness (Science), Thomas Boyle (Tech) and Jacqueline Gill (Art and Design) who are/were National Junior Cycle Associates. Their job is to upskill other professionals on a national scale in preparation for the new Junior Cycle.

Junior Certificate

Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP)

In addition to sitting the Junior Cycle, a small number of students follow the JCSP programme and are given extra supports in literacy and numeracy. They enjoy and benefit from practical project work, personal reading, guest speakers as well as other literacy and numeracy based activities. These students receive accreditation from the Department of Education and Skills for their achievements over the three year course period. This programme is co-ordinated by Mr JJ McDermott.

Level 1/Level 2 Learning programmes (L1LP, L2LP)

An individual Learning pathway is available with the new L1LP/L2LP programmes. A small number of students may follow these programmes over the three years of Junior Cycle ensuring they achieve certification alongside their peers at their own level.

Book Loan Scheme

All incoming pupils are supplied with the necessary textbooks and workbooks under the school's Book Loan Scheme. Pupils are able to receive their books at a fraction of the usual price when they avail of this scheme (€120). The book loan fee also covers the cost of the student journal and locker.

Chrome Books

1st years have the option of buying a chrome book for use in school and at home. Parents pay €50 per year for three years (total cost €150). The school subsidises the remaining cost of the Chromebook.

Student Journal

Each pupil uses the school journal to record homework and study. The journal also contains a copy of their timetable, list of teachers' names, school calendar, policies and other useful information. In addition, the journal is a means of communication between home and school. Parents/Guardians are expected to read and sign the journal at least once a week and sign a number of policies in the journal.





Uniform and Appearance

Girls:

Skirt: Plain grey school skirt to the knee or plain grey trousers (straight leg not skinny full length). A navy V-necked jumper with the school crest, worn over a plain white shirt and tie (navy, yellow stripe and school crest). Black Shoes. Plain dark black tights or black/navy socks when worn with skirt. Navy blue school coat with the school crest (optional). Navy school blazer with school crest (optional).

Boys:

Plain grey trousers (straight leg not skinny full length). A navy V-necked jumper with the school crest, worn over a plain white shirt and tie (navy, yellow stripe and school crest). Black Shoes. Navy blue school coat with the school crest (optional). Navy school blazer with school crest (optional).

PE:

We have a school PE tee-shirt and ½ zip top available for purchase (order and fitting in school during 1st week in school). This is compulsory for all students in 1st year. Students should wear navy/black bottoms and runners.

In the interest of health, safety and hygiene body piercing, facial jewellery or large earrings should not be worn. Students are not allowed to wear more than one earring in each ear. Students should be sensitive to, and aware of, the subtle use of natural looking makeup and all students should be sensitive to the use of appropriate/natural looking hair colour and style.

School Day/Time

The school operates from 9:00 am until 3:55pm Monday to Thursday and from 9:00am until 1.15pm on a Friday. School commences with registration for each class with their Form Tutor and there are six classes during the school day. Break time is from 10.43-10.58am (2nd and 5th yrs) or 11:02-11:17am (1st, 3rd, 6th yrs) and Lunchtime is from 1:15pm until 1:55pm.

1st year students remain in school at all times during break and lunchtime.

A number of lunchtime clubs and activities are organised for students throughout the week. These include: computer club, astro turf soccer, badminton, drama, enterprise, Spanish, art, board games, choir, reading club and meetings with 5th year mentor students.

Lunch/Canteen Facilities

An excellent variety of hot and cold meals are provided by our school canteen at subsidised prices. Food is available first thing in the morning, at break and lunchtime and every menu has a 'light lunch' healthy option. Nuts are not permitted in our school as a number of students have a severe nut allergy. Our school is part of the Health Promoting Schools Programme.





1st Year Scholarship Scheme

Our scholarship scheme is offered to all 6th class feeder primary school to recognise the outstanding achievement of students in academic and sporting ability.

There are two types of scholarships:

1. **Academic:** Offered to students who excel and achieve top results in our school entrance test in January following enrolment. All students from our feeder primary schools are eligible for scholarships. There is one scholarship available. The student will receive a Chromebook and certificate at prize giving.
2. **Sports:** Offered to enrolled students who have participated and excelled in sport/s in primary school and in their local community. An application form is necessary. (available with this pack and on our website). There is one scholarship available. The student will receive a Chromebook and certificate at prize giving.

First Year Parent/Guardian Information Evening

Two information evenings take place for parents/guardians, one in May following enrolment and one toward the end of October. Information and advice is given in relation to curriculum, learning support and general support on offer in the school for 1st year students. Parents/guardians have an

opportunity to seek support and advice in relation to “settling in” issues that may have arisen in the first few weeks of their son or daughter's time in Crana College.

Parent Teacher Meeting

The 1st year parent teacher meeting will take place in the second term following Christmas Examinations. Parents will have an opportunity to meet with their child's form tutor, subject teachers, guidance counsellor and the learning support co-ordinator. If you need to speak to a teacher during the school year please ring the school secretary (074) 9361113 to make an appointment to meet with the teacher.

School Reports

All students have a school report which is available to parents/guardians online through our VSware system in January and June following term examinations. The report is personalised to their timetabled subjects and will indicate a score and grade for each subject and will focus on strengths and weaknesses in each subject. Class tutors and the principal provide a pastoral comment on how the student is performing over all in Crana College.



Induction/Transition Programme

Research has shown that the transition from primary to post primary school is a daunting experience for young people. In Crana College a huge emphasis is placed on an induction programme consisting of a number of activities to assist with the transition from primary school. Close contact and cooperation with the Primary School is established and activities are arranged accordingly.

The Induction Programme begins with visits to the local primary school by the principal, deputy principals and other teachers from Crana College. Students are invited to attend some events (e.g. Open Day, School Musical), so that they can familiarise themselves with the school environment. A presentation and DVD about Crana College is also shown in the primary schools. Students and parents/guardians are then invited into the school for an Open Night and following enrolment, students visit the school for an Entrance Test in January and a Transfer Day in May.

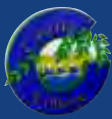
In September, first year students will have two full days when they are the only students in the school and will be linked up with a 5th year student who has received training in relation to mentoring and supporting 1st year students. A team building day is organised for 1st years with their 5th year mentors. A coffee morning is also organised at the start of the year for parents of 1st years to come in and meet with their child to see how they are settling in.

A parent/guardian Information evening will take place in May and October, followed by a parent teacher meeting in the second term. The form tutor, year head, guidance counsellors, SEN co-ordinator, Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator and the School Completion Co-ordinator also offer support to parents/guardians and students on the transition from primary to post primary school.

School Transport

Bus Éireann, on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills (Department) operate the school transport scheme. The purpose of the scheme is to support the transport to and from school of children who reside remote from their nearest school. Further information on the scheme and application process is available from Bus Éireann or their website www.buseireann.ie





Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

There is a strong sense of community in Crana College and students have very good relationships with teachers. This relationship is built on respect for one another and the importance placed on students recognising their full potential in and outside the classroom. A network of support for students operates in the school as follows:

The Class Tutor – The tutor meets the class group every morning, takes the roll, checks absence notes and student journals and generally addresses the pastoral needs of the class group and individuals within it. Parents often find that the Form Tutor can best deal with issues relating to the 'settling in' period.

The Year Head – All Year Heads are members of the school management team and each one has overall responsibility for the welfare and progress of the students within their year group. The Year Head, in conjunction with the Class Tutor encourages students to take responsibility for their actions and to become independent learners. They also meet parents at parent teacher meetings, discuss issues by telephone and by appointment.

The Career Guidance & Counselling service Mrs Anne McElhinney and Mrs Shirley McConalogue are available to advise students and their families about career issues and to provide a counselling service to students in need of assistance. They also organise information sessions on subject choice and further education options for 3rd and 6th Year students and parents.

Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator – Mrs Tanya Morrison is available anytime to meet with parents in their own home or in school to address any issue relating to their son or daughter's educational or personal needs. He will also organise courses for parents throughout the year.

Special Educational Needs – Ms Rosaleen O'Donnell is available to meet parents who wish to discuss issues relating to Student Support and the transition of students to Crana College.

Support Class (ASD) - Ms Doreen Friel is available to meet parents who wish to discuss enrolling their child in the ASD support class.

The Student Support Team and the Student Wellbeing Team – The Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellors, Home School Liaison co-ordinator, SEN Coordinator and others coordinate the Pastoral Care system in the school. Working together with teachers and year heads they try to ensure that your child is safe and secure at all times

Inclusion

Crana College prides itself on being an inclusive school. We have a core group of experienced support teachers and Special Needs Assistants who work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students. Ms Rosaleen O'Donnell, SEN Coordinator and Ms Doreen Friel Support

Class (ASD) Co ordinator are available to meet with parents at any time. The SEN Department offers a range of support models and is pupil centered in approach. At Junior cycle, a small number of students may engage with the new Level 1 or Level 2 Learning Programmes, (L1LP/L2LP) while the majority will follow the new Junior Cycle. At senior cycle, students are offered a range of programmes, including traditional Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. Students are supported to become independent learners and to achieve their maximum potential, socially, emotionally and academically.





One Good School (OGS) Initiative

We want to normalise conversations around mental health by taking part in the One Good School initiative and hope that more young people will start to feel comfortable talking about what is going on for them. That is why in OGS, there are areas of activity for all members of the school community to avail of in order to build their knowledge of mental health, think about their own self-care and support young people with help-seeking. We are delighted to have achieved the Gold Award in this initiative.

Assembly

Every second week each year group has a short morning assembly. At this time issues particular to the year group can be communicated to all the students together. Success will be celebrated and achievements acknowledged as often as possible. A “student of the month” for all 1st, 2nd and 3rd year class groups is announced at the end of each month throughout the year. We also recognize excellent behavior of students by having a year group prize draw at the end of each term.

Building Community

In an attempt to make students in Crana College feel part of a community the following activities take place throughout the school year:

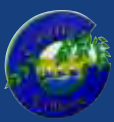
Lunchtime clubs, inter-denominational services, group projects, outings/tours, peer-tutoring, mentoring of first years, homework and study club, sports, drama, concerts, Christmas carol service, Christmas Draw, Christmas Market, 6th year formal, choirs, school musical, Crana College 5K, Anti bullying/Friendship Week, Blue Day, StandUp Week LGBT+, Mental Health Awareness Week, College Aware Week, participation in charitable events e.g. Concern fast, Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning, non uniform day, Student Council, Girls Active, Health Promoting team, Green Schools Team, leadership team, student voice committee, Gaisce awards, Pope John Paul 11 Award and a wide range of extra-

curricular activities.

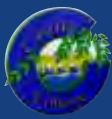
The school website (www.cranacollege.com), Twitter Account (@cranacollege), facebook , instagram account and publication in local newspapers is a great way of sharing information with all students, staff and the wider community and is a platform to communicate success and the range of activities that take place in the school.











Extra-Curricular

Academic studying is important and we expect all our students to achieve high standards, but our view of education celebrates the creative, physical and moral as much as the intellectual and all students are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities.

Students at Crana College participate in a wide range of extra curricular activities throughout the year. Activities range from many Sports to Music, Drama, Dance, Art, Gaisce, Erasmus, school tours and the Pope John Paul II Award.

Sport:

Crana College offers a wide range of sports to both boys and girls at all ages and levels. Some sports offered vary from year to year depending on the interest of students however, some of the main sports offered include Gaelic, Soccer, Hurling, Rugby, Camogie, Golf, Basketball, Athletics, Girls Active, Swimming, Badminton, Outdoor Pursuits, Hill Walking and Tag Rugby. We were delighted to be All Ireland U14 Girls Soccer winners and Ulster U16 girls Gaelic winners this year 2023.

Many of our students past and present, have realised county, provincial and national success in a range of sports. Some past and present students who have been successful at provincial and international level include: Boxing Jake Curran, Martin Lynch, William McLaughlin, Chloe McDaid; Soccer Gareth McElroy, Kayla McBride, Kevin Boyle, Tommy Lee McCarron, Saorla Gallagher, Leah McDaid; Judo Barry McLaughlin; Jiu Jitsu Judo Tristan Logue; Swimming Lucy Devlin; Cycling Ronan McLaughlin, Roisin Carter; GAA Liam McKinney, Cormac McColgan, Ryan Bradley, Ciaran Bradley, Rhiana McColgan, Ava Walsh, Tara Rose Mahon; Mixed Martial Art Mike Donaghey, Matthew McConnell; Rugby Nora Stapleton; Athletics Ella Costello, Emer McFadden, Camogie Rihanna McDermott. Kick Boxing Darragh Donaghey, Liam Grant; Karate Caitriona McKinney, Vanessa Cuffe and Michael Gillespie.



Music/Drama/Dance:

Our school has a strong tradition of participating and achieving success in the area of music, drama and dance. We have a school choir who perform at a number of whole school events and in the local community. Our annual Christmas concert provides a platform for all students to display their talents and other school variety shows take place throughout the year. A major event every second year is our school musical with a large number of students participating, creating a wonderful production for the school, parents and the local community. Last year we presented 'The Wizard of Oz' which was a sell out success in the Millennium Form, Derry, a wonderful experience for our students.



Art and Design:

Our Art Department very much contributes to the school environment by displaying pieces of work throughout the school building. Students attend exhibitions, museums and enter a wide range of competitions both locally and nationally. Our Art Department have also been successful in obtaining two bursaries from the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals Creative Engagement Project and the school has been accepted to be part of the Creative Schools Programme (Arts Council).





School Tours and Trips:

Crana College students are offered a number of school tours/trips each year. These range from European tours (e.g. to Barcelona, Paris, Milan), to ski trips, Belfast giants and international soccer matches.) There is always an educational and cultural element to these excursions when students get the opportunity to travel abroad. Both students and staff thoroughly enjoy the experience and this contributes to the overall sense of community and relationships in the school. Last year our students went/are going to Lake Garda in Italy, Paris and on a Ski Trip to Pinzolo in Italy.

Erasmus+ Programme:

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Erasmus+ offers mobility and cooperation opportunities in any EU member state. Students are offered the opportunity to travel to other countries to cooperate with students across Europe on a project together.

Last years project was the GREEN project: Getting Ready to Embrace the Environment and Nature. We worked with schools in Barcelona Spain, Babenhausen Germany, Lisbon Portugal, and Thessaloniki Greece. Crana College was the host for the other countries' in March, 2023.

All costs are covered by the funding from the European Union providing this amazing opportunity for teachers and pupils to participate in a project together. This fosters international understanding and creates lifelong links between students from different countries. This will allow for many students to travel for free to Europe to represent our school.

Gaisce -The President's Award

Gaisce – The President's Award is the most prestigious Award in Ireland for young people aged 14 to 25. The Award is a self-directed personal development programme in which participants are supported and mentored by a more experienced person, a volunteer, a President's Award Leader (PAL), to set and achieve a personal challenge over a period of time.

The Gaisce Award challenges young people to set and pursue personal goals in four different areas of activity:

- *Community Involvement*
- *Personal Skill*
- *Physical Recreation*
- *Adventure Journey*

There are 3 levels to the Award programme, starting with Bronze and with the opportunity to progress to Silver or Gold over time.

Pope John Paul II Award:

Senior students are given the opportunity to complete an internationally recognised award, The Pope John Paul II Award. This encourages students to engage actively within their local community and parish. The award can be completed by all, regardless of religious tradition. Pupils complete a range of tasks which requires a degree of commitment. Skills gained are crucial on a personal and professional level. Activities include - visiting the elderly, editing newsletters, coaching, mentoring, assisting with homework clubs. This award may be presented as part of one's application for college courses or future employment.



Creative Schools Project:

Crana College is fortunate to have been accepted on the Arts Council's Creative Schools program, an initiative which aims to put the arts and creativity at the heart of young people's lives. As well as receiving funding, participating schools also work with a dedicated Creative Associate—an artist/educator who guides and actively engages students in developing new ways of working that incorporate creativity as an impactful element in their learning, development and well-being. The voice of our young people has been at the centre of the planning and decision making process and we are looking forward to a creatively busy year ahead. Among our planned activities is a collaboration between art / technology / woodwork / engineering departments and a local artist, on a sculpture made from found objects, a music masterclass with a well-known recording artist, participating in a climate change postcard exchange with artworks (postcards) being exhibited in Ireland and the UK and a tour of Windmill Lane recording studios. Our school coordinator is Ms Nuala Reddin.

Fundraising:

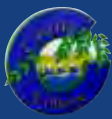
Crana College has a very strong tradition in fundraising. Other fundraising activities/charities that students have raised money for include Aware, Irish Wheelchair Association, Irish Heart Foundation, Song for Simon, St Vincent De Paul, Blue Day, Jersey Day, Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, Indian Orphanage Appeal, Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning, iCare, Down Syndrome Ireland, MS Ireland and a number of local and national charities.

Other Extra-curricular activities include:

We have a wide range of lunchtime and after school clubs which include: Board Games, Computer Club, Badminton, Basketball, Astro Turf, Spanish, Choir, Traditional Music, Art Club, Drama Club, Enterprise Club, visits to theatres/cinema, field/subject related trips, visits to third level colleges, role model day, interview preparation, coffee mornings, 6th year formal, Scifest, Inspire Education study skills, Webwise, green school, health promoting school, farming programme, garage programme, poetry and drama competitions, 5k run/walk to name a few!

Teachers give generously of their time in this wide range of sporting, artistic and cultural activities contributing to the positive teacher – pupil relationship that is the cornerstone of education in Crana College.





Positive Behaviour Management

A school ethos of encouragement is central to the promotion of good behaviour in Crana College. Rewards are one means of achieving this. They have a motivational role in helping pupils to realise that good behaviour is valued. Integral to the system of rewards is an emphasis on praise, both informal and formal, to individuals and groups.

The following list is examples of rewards offered in our school:

- Personal word of praise from the teacher, form tutor or year head.
- Good comments in student journal.
- Congratulatory note or letter home.
- Display of student work in the classroom or in a prominent place in the school.
- Participation in school teams and extra-curricular activities.
- Publication of success on the school website and local newspapers.
- Becoming a member of a student council, or being elected as head girl/boy.
- Class outing to the cinema, bowling alley or places of educational interest and inclusion in school trips abroad.
- Recognition of success at our annual school prize giving.
- Acknowledgements and appraisal given during year group assembly.
- Postcards acknowledging success sent home.
- Student of the Month Award for every class group (1st-3rd year) and publication of photographs on school website.
- End of term prize draw for excellent behaviour.
- Students with full attendance entered into a draw at the end of the school term.

Our Code of Behaviour and overall ethos within the school emphasises the importance of relationships and positive communication. To assist all of us in maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect we use various strategies encouraging students and staff to look at behaviour and its effects on others and the wider school community.

Through this approach students get the opportunity to learn more about behaviour and how best to work through issues. We bring people together in a structured and agreed way to discuss concerns as they arise. In this way everyone is heard, valued equally and relationships strengthened. Some of the strategies used involve, listening approaches, restorative questioning, circle time and impromptu conferencing.



Misbehaviour and Sanctions

Crana College recognises that the vast majority of students are well behaved and it is a minority of students who disrupt the learning opportunities of their well-behaved classmates.

While many incidents of disruption may not appear in themselves to be of undue seriousness, taken on a recurring basis they can undermine the climate for teaching and learning that is fundamental to the ethos of the school. Incidents of serious indiscipline which pose a risk to the safety and wellbeing of teachers or pupils will be dealt with in the most serious manner possible and could lead to suspension or expulsion from school.

In submitting an application form parents and pupils are accepting the school's Code of Behaviour, which is included in the enrolment pack and can be viewed on the schools' website at www.cranacollege.com



Anti-Bullying

All staff and students of Crana College have an absolute right to work and study in an environment where they will feel safe and secure at all times. Any type of behaviour which deliberately undermines or isolates another student, which takes away that person's dignity or any repeated verbal or physical aggression will be dealt with in keeping with the school's anti-bullying policy and Code of Behaviour, as will any efforts to encourage others to be involved in this type of behaviour. The school authorities also reserve the right to address instances of bullying that occur outside the school grounds, at lunchtime, or after school hours. In the case of cyber bullying that takes place in the evening or at weekends involving students of Crana College, the school authorities will take an active role in ensuring that the matter is resolved. In short, bullying is unacceptable and it will not be tolerated in Crana College. A copy of the school's Anti-Bullying policy and Code of Behaviour can be viewed on the school's website at www.cranacollege.scoilnet.ie

Anti-Bullying Charter

Everyone is valued in Crana College. Everyone has the right to be him/herself and the responsibility to treat others as he/she would like to be treated.

This school regards bullying as a serious infringement of a student's rights and a serious threat to his/her self-esteem and confidence.

Difference of any type, appearance, religion, personality, background, sexuality or interests does not make it acceptable to bully another student.

Silence allows people to suffer so we must speak out when we know we should. Remember you might not be the only person being bullied, but you might be the only person with the strength to speak up and so help others.

If you are being bullied you must tell someone who can help – this might be a close friend, a teacher, a class tutor or year head, a school counsellor, a parent/guardian or another trustworthy adult. If you are being bullied, or if you know that someone else is being bullied, speak up until you know something is being done.

All reports of bullying will be investigated and treated sympathetically.

Bullying behaviour will be dealt with in keeping with the school's Code of Behaviour with appropriate sanctions applied when needed, up to and including suspension or expulsion.





Home School Community Liaison Scheme

The scheme was set up in Crana College in 1999 and the aim of this scheme is to promote partnership between home, the school and the community to ensure that every child participates fully in the school system. The scheme recognises parents as the primary educators of their children and is here to support them in this important role. Visiting parents in their homes is a great way of getting to know parents and a chance to listen to their views and concerns.

Mr Philip McGuinness, our Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator is available any time to meet with parents in their own home or in school to address any issue relating to their son or daughter's educational or personal needs. He will also organise courses for parents throughout the year. Some of the courses on offer to parents, free of charge, include:

Computers, Art and Craft, Living with Teens, Helping Hand and Junior Cert English and Maths.



Home/School Links/Community

Contact with parents is promoted and maintained through:

- Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator.
- Notices to parents, including reports and text alerts.
- Parents Association.
- Close links with feeder primary schools e.g. visits to the primary school and student visit Crana College.
- Work Experience/Visiting speakers/Project Work.
- Crana College news in local newspapers, on website, facebook and Twitter.
- Parent/teacher meetings and information evenings.
- Contact with wider community is promoted and maintained.





ICT: A Digital School

We have benefited from the Digital Learning Framework with large investments in Chromebooks, iPads, computers, interactive boards, visualisers and the software that goes with them in recent years in Crana College. As a result, students here have the very best of modern technology at their disposal in classrooms, the practical rooms and computer rooms. Teachers are constantly adapting their teaching methods to include ICT in the classroom, including the use of google classroom, chromebooks and Co Donegal ETB student email accounts.

Crana College is the lead-school in the Department of Education and Skills most recent initiative to encourage the use of ICT in schools. The School Excellence Fund allows Crana college teachers to liaise with other primary and Post Primary schools to develop and share good ICT practice in the classroom.

Crana College is put itself on the Donegal map for leading the way in ICT in schools was the introduction of Exploring Coding as a pilot subject. The initiative has gained national exposure for our foresight in trying to meet the needs of young people when they leave school and seek employment.

We offer Coding and Digital Media Literacy as short courses at Junior Cycle and we now offer Computer Science as a Leaving Cert subject option.

Google Classroom is another development in how our teachers approach the 'on-line' culture of young people now. Students have access to lessons and resources through Google Classroom on their iPad or Chromebook; even when they are at home.

The Chromebook scheme has greatly enhanced the use of ICT in the classroom and for online learning at home.

Our Enterprise standard WiFi technology makes sure that students and staff can access high speed internet at all times no matter how many devices are in operation in the school day.

Social Media has become a part of life in Crana College. We use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to reach our parents and the community to let them know what's coming up in our calendar. Many of our subject departments use Twitter on a daily basis to recognise the achievements and successes of their students.

Our attendance and punctuality is recorded on a VSware system which allows teachers and parents to have immediate access to a pupil's records and our reports to parents at Christmas and Summer are produced using up to the minute computer software. Students have access to notes and lessons by way of the school's system, which will eventually allow parents to check on the progress of their children through a secure, password protected entry system. Computers are so much a part of everyday life, especially for young people, that teachers are well aware of how important it is to include modern technology in their teaching.

Transition Year (TY)

Transition Year is a one-year programme between the end of the Junior Cycle Student Award and the start of a Leaving Certificate programme. It promotes maturity, independent learning and prepares students for the Leaving Certificate. Transition Year tries to give a broad education to students and teachers using a wide range of interactive teaching methodologies. A Transition Year student will learn the traditional way, but will also learn through practical experience and through meeting people beyond the classroom. Our TY programme is co-ordinated by Ms Clare Bradley.

Benefits of Transition Year

- Students get opportunities to discover and develop their own individual gifts and strengths.
- Students experience a year where the emphasis is on individual responsibility and the nurturing of a thinking, caring, articulate and self-confident person.
- TY students have the opportunity to explore career ambitions by doing work shadowing placements.
- Students get extra time to explore choices for the Leaving Certificate, choosing the right subjects for their interests and abilities to improve performance



I ♥ TY





Admissions Procedures

New admissions procedures introduced by the Department of Education in 2020 requires all Post Primary schools to publish the maximum number of students they can accept into 1st Year for the following year.

Crana College can accept up to 138 students into mainstream. Currently there are no places available in our Support (ASD) class for 2023-2024.

Enrolment Procedures

Parents/Guardians wishing to enrol their child are required to complete an Application for Admission form. The application form can be completed online in the Parent - Enrolment sections on our website - www.cranacollege.com or a paper copy can be submitted to the school office.

The enrolment period for admission to Crana College opens on Thursday 23rd November 2023 and closes on Thursday 21st December 2023 at 4pm.

Key Admission Information

A full copy of our Admission Policy is available on our website but included here is some key information regarding admission to Crana College.

Pupils must be aged at least 12 on the 31st December of the year that they transfer into 1st Year.

Only pupils who have completed their final year (6th class) of primary school will be considered for enrolment.

Applications to First Year will be accepted from pupils who are transferring from feeder Primary Schools within the catchment area in no particular order.

The feeder Primary Schools for Crana College are:

Scoil Iosagain, Buncrana
St. Oran's National School, Cockhill, Buncrana
Gaelscoil, Bhun Cranncha
St. Mura's National School, Buncrana
St. Egney's National School, Desertegney, Buncrana
Scoil Naomh Brid, Muff
Naomh Iosef, Illies
Scoil Naomh Pdraig, Drumfries, Clonmany
St. Aengus National Scoil, Bridgend
St. Mura's National School, Tooban
St. Francis' National School, Clonmany
Scoil Naomh Treasa, Tiernasligo, Clonmany

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, selection criteria as set out below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Crana College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.



Selection criteria

Selection criteria in order of priority

Crana College will apply the following criteria for admission to the First-Year Group:

- 5.1.2.1** If the Student attended one of Crana College's Feeder Primary Schools.
- 5.1.2.2** If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school;
- 5.1.2.3** If the Student has siblings who were previously enrolled in the school;
- 5.1.2.4** If the Student is the son or daughter of a member of staff currently working in the school (to a maximum of 25% of the places available);
- 5.1.2.5** If the Student is the son or daughter of a past pupil;
- 5.1.2.6** If the Student is the eldest child of a family;

Selection process

Crana College will apply the selection process as follows: Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Crana College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

Late applications

An application received by Crana College after the closing date published by the school, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of the Admission Policy.

Where Crana College is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with the Admission Policy.



Key Dates

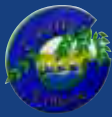
- 1. Admission Notice published on Wednesday 16th November 2023**
- 2. Enrolment opens on Thursday 23rd November 2023**
- 3. Enrolment closes on Thursday 21st December 2023**




Crana College

Summer
CAMP
 Monday 10th -
 Wednesday 12th July 2023
10am - 2pm each day.
3 days of creative games and fun for kids from 2nd - 6th class
SPORTS • BOUNCY CASTLES • MUSIC
DANCE • DRAMA • CAR MODELLING
BAKING etc and much more!!
 €30 for 1 Child - €50 for 2 - €70 for 3
 ALL CHILDREN MUST BRING A PACKED LUNCH
Break will be provided.
PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO CRANA COLLEGE OFFICE BEFORE FRIDAY 12th MAY, 2023





*Excellence
in Education*

**Cra na College
Cra na Road,
Buncrana
Co. Donegal
Ireland**