

Royal School Cavan

School History

The Royal School Cavan is one of six Ulster royal schools which were founded during the reign of King James. The school received its charter in 1608 and the first headmaster was appointed in 1611. His name was John Robinson and he was to begin an era of providing education in Cavan for over 400 years. During the first two centuries the school managed somehow to survive through many political and social upheavals. The school had a somewhat nomadic existence until 1819, when it secured a permanent location in Lurganboy. The school was a purpose-built building designed by the famous architect of the time Francis Johnson who also designed Dublin's G.P.O. In 1924, the school became only the second co-educational boarding and day school in Ireland. The Protestant (Local) Board of Education (Board of Governors) are the registered patron, in accordance the Education Act, a Board of Management was established in October 2009, and the patron gave responsibility to this board to manage the day school in accordance with the Articles of Management.

The school has seen extensive modernisation in recent years. This has enabled the school to grow in numbers while providing the facilities required in a modern school. The Boarding element of the school was closed in June 2020 and the school has taken the decision to be a DAY school only. The school will join the free education scheme from September 2022. As the school enters its fifth century of providing education to the community it is the intention of the Board of Governors, Board of Management, Senior Management and all Staff members to uphold and enhance the school's reputation in academic excellence as well as preparing our students for the tests of life within a Christian ethos.

A Statement on the Ethos of our School

The warm, friendly, and caring atmosphere of Royal School Cavan arises from the high value placed on relationships between students, staff, and parents. Everyone is supported to reach his/her full academic and social potential in a Christian Ethos, based on values of respect, kindness, honesty, love, and wholesomeness.

The great majority of students have a positive attitude towards school life, particularly appreciating their friendships. Teachers have high expectations of students academically but also in terms of their social and moral development. There is a wide range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities which offer opportunities to support the physical, intellectual, and cultural development of our students. All our students are encouraged to join in with the development of our school community. Student Leadership can take many different forms in Royal School Cavan. The following are some of the ways our students have become active citizens in our school community and as a result have enriched our learning community:

- Member of the Green schools' committee
- Member of the Student Council
- Member of the Christian Union
- Taking part in Fundraising Activities
- Completing the Bronze and/or Silver Gaisce Awards
- Becoming a Prefect
- Developing a Mini-Company
- Taking a lead role on the sports field
- Educating their Peers on Drug and Alcohol Misuse
- Setting up a School Bank
- Getting involved in various competitions and projects such as Youth Connect, Scifest, Creative Engagement, debating, etc...

We celebrate the many talents and achievements of our students but we particularly value effort. Intelligence and ability are not regarded as fixed qualities. We encourage our students to have a growth mindset. Students are encouraged to learn from their mistakes and to

believe in their potential, thereby developing a positive attitude towards learning from which they will benefit throughout their lives.

This school is one that seeks to promote healthy lifestyles for all in a safe, supportive, and nonthreatening environment. Through its policies, procedures, activities and structures the school aims to create an environment in which:

- People feel valued
- Self-esteem is fostered
- There is respect, tolerance, and fairness
- People in difficulty are supported
- There is open and honest communication
- Effort is recognised
- Difference and diversity are valued
- Conflict is handled constructively
- Social, moral, and civic values are promoted
- Initiative and creativity are stressed

These aims are implemented in the daily transactions between management, staff, students, and the wider school community.

Our Vision, Mission Statement & School Crest

Our Vision at Royal School Cavan is to provide a 'caring and respectful community that empowers learning'.

Our Mission Statement:

Royal School Cavan endeavours to nurture students' gifts and talents in a learning community that is supportive, inclusive, and creative. Everyone is encouraged to achieve their full academic and personal potential while, developing habits that instil lifelong learning, guided by our Christian ethos.

Our school crest is quite unique. It was designed by Gavin Arneill and Ruth Lowry (former Sixth Year students to commemorate our 400th celebrations). The Griffin (both lion and eagle) is a royal symbol. The rising sun holds the date 1611, the year Royal School Cavan was established. The sun rises above the drumlins, which are a reference to the landscape of County Cavan. The Latin phrase '*Ad Vitam Paramus*' means 'We are preparing for life'.

Aims

The educational aims of Royal School Cavan are:

- To offer a Church of Ireland education that strives to empower and motivate students to use their individual gifts with confidence, creativity, and generosity in a spirit of loving and responsible service.
- To promote the moral, spiritual, academic, social, and personal development of students in consultation with their parents.
- To cherish all students equally regardless of ability, gender, creed, class, or ethnic background.
- To encourage a pursuit of excellence appropriate to each student so that they may develop their particular gifts.
- To offer a broad holistic curriculum to enable students reach their full potential and to develop a love of learning.
- To give every opportunity to students to develop powers of critical reflection thereby building independence of mind as a means towards responsible citizenship.
- To nurture the aesthetic sense through the creative arts and an appreciation of heritage and culture.