

# Strangford Integrated College Prospectus







## Principal's Welcome

On behalf of the whole team of students, staff and governors, thank you for reading the Strangford Integrated College Prospectus. We hope it will give you an informative insight into our values, expectations and the way we work.

We are proud to be an integrated school and are committed to creating a school experience for our young people from diverse backgrounds that is exciting, memorable and highly successful. We are committed to working in partnership with our parents and are aware of the value of their support and the importance of their role in their child's education.

### We are truly a school for all the family.

In June 2022, we were awarded the prestigious Rights Respecting Schools Gold Accreditation which is testimony to the fact that we are committed to academic excellence and encourage our students to thrive in a caring, respectful and supportive environment. We are proud that our College is recognised as fully rights respecting.

We have a dynamic and forward-thinking staff team, with a strong commitment to best practice teaching for learning, backed by high quality pastoral support for students. It is an exciting time to be part of Strangford Integrated College.

We are a growing school with a new build project well underway which will provide enhanced facilities and opportunities for our young people.

The formal recognition of our grammar pathway by the Department of Education has enhanced all-ability integrated education for the children in the Ards, North Down and Peninsula area. We are truly a school for all the family.

Our Students are the best role models for the core values of integrated education. I hope you will feel confident in choosing Strangford Integrated College for the next stage of your child's educational journey.

**Mrs Clare Foster, Principal**





# Our story

In February 1996 a group of parents attended a public meeting by All Children Together (ACT) and formed a steering committee to commit to opening a post-primary integrated school in the North Down and Ards area.

With the active support and backing of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, the Integrated Education Fund and ACT, Strangford Integrated College first opened its doors on 1st September 1999, with 64 students, 6 full-time members of staff and a school secretary.

In September 1999, after three years of campaigning, lobbying and fundraising, the Department of Education awarded the school 'maintained status'. This was a significant milestone in the College's development.

In September 2022, the College celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing all-ability integrated education for children in the Ards, North Down and Peninsula area. We have come a long way since we opened our doors and we are indebted to the group of parents who forged ahead with their vision for a new integrated school in Carrowdore.





# Our Purpose

## Mission Statement

At Strangford Integrated College we offer students of different abilities, religions and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to be educated together in a caring, trusting and inclusive community, which seeks to maximise their full potential and celebrate their achievements.

## We are...

- Committed to inspiring students to achieve their best and excel at all they do.
- Committed to high quality learning experiences for all, both inside and outside the classroom.
- Committed to ensuring that all lessons are engaging, innovative and well planned with the learning needs of the students prioritised.



## Our College Crest

The tower stands like a beacon across North Down and Ards, from which the majority of our students are drawn.

The Lamp of Learning emphasises the importance of academic achievement within the College and our aim that every student is encouraged to achieve and excel.

The Crest displays the College Motto: *In Hoc Signo Vinctes* (Under the Sign we are Strong). This reflects the integrated nature of the College and the unity of purpose shared by students, parents, staff and governors.



# A compass for success

## Our Values

Our school values are at the heart of what we do each day:



## Our Aims

- To provide excellence in education for all.
- To be a strong example of integration in practice.
- To embrace those of diverse religious beliefs and none, building on our Christian Ethos.
- To encourage every student to treat others with respect, understanding and empathy.
- To support every student in developing their academic, personal, social and spiritual potential.
- To create a safe, positive environment, where every student loves learning and every teacher loves teaching.
- To celebrate and reward success.
- To promote and welcome the partnership of parents in the education of our students.
- To prepare our students to be effective members of our ever-changing, fast-paced 21st century world.





# Integrated ethos

**Integrated education at Strangford offers the opportunity for young people from differing religious and cultural backgrounds to be educated together, in an atmosphere of respect, tolerance, trust and understanding.**

The intentional mix of young people and teachers from different faiths and backgrounds is unique, allowing for young people to learn about the identity of others, to recognise what makes them who they are and celebrate diversity through all aspects of school life.

Our college is fully inclusive; we purposefully strive to have a balance of religions through our admissions criteria. We currently have students from all faith backgrounds and none in our school.

**Through our admissions criteria, we purposefully strive to have a balance of religions represented in our College.**

We seek to promote a culture where Christian values are lived out day-by-day and are reflected in our core values. Throughout their time in the College, students have the opportunity to reflect on their own values and beliefs. Students are encouraged to lead services to improve social confidence and public speaking skills, in addition to developing spiritually. Students also engage in many charitable events both inside and outside school. Many of our students and staff are able to add hours of voluntary and community work to their profiles.

*I felt nervous about starting Strangford with the new subjects, routines and new people! The teachers were great at helping me to settle in and I quickly made new friends. You realise that everyone is in the same boat as you and there's no need to be nervous. The teachers here are really approachable and I feel like I have got to know them well.*

**Amelia Rose Moreland Year 9**  
Portaferry Integrated Primary School



An important part of integrated education is catering for students of all abilities. At Strangford Integrated College we are committed to high academic standards for our students.

We believe that all students have different talents and abilities and should be given the opportunity to succeed. At the College, we seek to ensure that each child fulfills their academic potential. We focus on the specific needs of each child, believing strongly in the self-esteem of the individual and that healthy self-respect encourages respect for others.



*Our college is*

*fully inclusive*



**We are delighted that our strong integrated ethos has been recognised through being awarded the Excellence in Integration Award.**

*'The impression the assessors gained through the process was of an open, friendly, professional and enthusiastically led integrated school, confident in its ethos and eager to share a full range of the aspects of its life.'*



*'The College leaders and staff are committed to children's rights – these are tied into the vision and values of the College.'*

*'The ethos places positive relationships based on mutual respect and trust at the heart of school life.'*

*'A school with inclusion at its heart where students feel safe and secure.'*



# A school for all the family

**From September 2024 we have been selecting students for the Grammar Pathway using the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) test results.**

The Grammar Pathway equates to 35% of our Year 8 intake or 46 places. This means that parents can now choose a formal grammar pathway in an integrated setting for their child. 65% of our Year 8 intake or 84 places will be admitted to our All-Ability Pathway with no reference to the SEAG test.

## Parents can now choose a formal grammar pathway in an integrated setting for their child

Close attention is paid to the needs of all students whichever pathway, Grammar or All-Ability they are admitted on to. Suitable teaching support programmes are drawn up in line with the students' requirements. This includes the development of a broad and balanced curriculum. A variety of vocational and academic subjects are available for GCSE and A Level and students can choose a blend of subjects.

*As siblings at Strangford Integrated College, we've both felt the strong sense of family and community that makes this school so special. Starting in Year 8, we were both nervous in our own ways, but the welcoming atmosphere and supportive teachers made it easy to settle in. Sixth Form has given me so many opportunities to grow, both academically and personally – whether it's through my A-Level subjects: Sport, Religious Studies and History or being part of the rugby team. For my sister, the school's creative side has been a highlight, with Art, Technology and Drama Club, helping her thrive.*

**Ben McConkey Year 13** *Donaghadee Primary School*

*Being here together has been amazing; we've supported each other and shared in the school's community spirit. Strangford Integrated College really does feel like an extension of our own family, and we're so proud to be part of it.*

**Caitlyn McConkey Year 10** *Donaghadee Primary School*

Importantly, families can all attend the same integrated school and have their needs fully met. Families who have one child who thrives in a highly academic environment will be provided for through the Grammar Pathway, and another child, who is better suited to a more vocational route will be provided for through the All-Ability Pathway.

All students have different talents and abilities which are nurtured through the pathways and extra-curricular enrichment activities.



*I am enjoying Year 9 at Strangford. It's great to move around between classes and have a different learning experience in each subject! I have made friends in my form class and I also know a few of the older students through my brother. I play after school rugby. This is a new sport for me and I really enjoy it. The canteen food is really good.*

**Kyle Miller Year 9**  
*Newtownards Model Primary School*

*I've had a really positive experience in my time at Strangford. I have made good friends, the same friends as I met in Year 8. Everyone in Strangford comes from all sorts of different backgrounds. We are encouraged to try new things and the teachers are very supportive.*

**Luke Miller Year 12**  
*Newtownards Model Primary School*



*My little sister goes to Strangford. The school has a family feel to it as many of the students mix with students in other year groups and you get to know them through the clubs and house activities. I'm currently studying for my A Levels and I feel I am being supported by my teachers. They always have the extra time to give you one to one support and are very encouraging and positive.*

**Freya Miskelly Year 13**  
*Bangor Central Integrated Primary School*

*I knew a bit about the school as my older sister Freya also attends Strangford Integrated College. I know I can rely on her if I need her. I play netball for the junior netball team and I really enjoy playing matches and representing my school. I know a lot of Year 8's are nervous about getting the bus to and from school but I actually really enjoy taking the bus, it's fun to spend that time with your friends after school.*

**Emme Miskelly Year 9**  
*Bangor Central Integrated Primary School*



# New build progress

**The New Build Programme supported by Fresh Start funding and the Department of Education is progressing well.**

Our contractor was appointed on 1st August 2023 and significant progress has been made since Spring 2024. The new build is located to the rear of the College. The first phase, which includes three wings and the central hub of the school, is due to be completed by November 2025 which will see the majority of the school move to the new building. The second phase, including the final wing and sports hall, is due to be completed by December 2026. We look forward to moving into state-of-the-art facilities.

The new school build will enable us to provide enhanced facilities and opportunities for our young people on the existing site including a

separate sports hall and fitness suite, 3G hockey pitch, rugby, GAA and football pitches.

We are thankful for the funding and the commitment from the Department of Education to grow and develop Integrated Education in North Down, Ards and the Peninsula.

**The first phase is due to be completed by November 2025 which will see the majority of the school move to the new building, before the final phase is completed in 2026.**



# Leading the way

## A Culture of Leadership

Leadership development is integral to our culture at Strangford Integrated College. Our Prefects are more than just figureheads. They lead our students and represent us at public occasions.

**There are a wide variety of leadership roles for students to assume across all year groups.**

Our four houses are led by House Captains, and this system brings our students together in mixed age group events. The opportunity to become a prefect is open to all our 6th Formers.

There are a wide variety of leadership roles for students to assume across all year groups. From Eco-Schools Ambassadors to Student Councillors, Cross Curricular Skills Leaders and Subject Mentors, there is something to develop the leader in everyone.

## The House System

Our four houses, Mahee, Ogilby, Sketrick and Taggart, named after islands in Strangford Lough, are led by House Captains and this system brings students together in a wide range of house competitions.

All students and staff belong to a house and this develops our Strangford Integrated College family atmosphere. Competitions have included sport, music, drama, numeracy, pumpkin carving, creative writing and busking.

Students wear their house colour as a stripe in their tie. The Houses at Strangford are very competitive – so we like to get students engaged in house loyalty as soon as possible!



**Mahee**



**Ogilby**



**Sketrick**



**Taggart**





# Your learning journey begins here

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum at Strangford Integrated College is exciting, challenging and motivating. Students experience a supportive and creative learning environment which provides them with numerous and varied opportunities to express themselves and develop as independent learners, to work collaboratively and to develop an enquiry-based approach to learning. These skills provide the foundations for success at GCSE and A Level. The Northern Ireland Statutory Curriculum is fully catered for at Key Stage 3.

In Year 8, students at Strangford Integrated College will study:

### Key Stage 3 Subjects

English	Mathematics
Art & Design	Religious Studies
Modern Languages	Science
Geography	Drama
Technology & Design	Home Economics
Music	History
IT	Citizenship
Physical Education	Employability and Personal Development.*

*GCSE pathways are created to reflect the all-ability nature of the College.*



## Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At Strangford Integrated College, students are encouraged to identify and use their preferred learning styles in order to best utilise their abilities. The College provides additional support through tracking, target setting, transition and mentoring programmes.

Throughout the year, programmes of revision are provided. Intensive revision classes are held throughout the exam season, and students are encouraged to show independence in their learning, organisation and motivation.

At Key Stage 4, we strive to ensure that students can choose subjects tailored to their particular interests, strengths and career aspirations. GCSE pathways are created to reflect the all-ability nature of the College. Extensive use of data ensures that students embark on the most suitable pathway to guarantee individual success.

Some students choose to follow an academic pathway, whilst others opt for a blended pathway that includes traditional subjects alongside the more vocational ones.

All GCSE pathways have a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Personal Development and Careers. All pathways offer a full range of GCSE and Level 2 courses, both academic and vocational and aim to prepare students for A-Level.

Students are given a school managed iPad to support learning and teaching. This encourages them to be more independent in their studies and to access a wide range of subject specific research materials.

The final Key Stage 4 subject selection is decided after close consultation with students, their parents and our careers advisor.

Our curriculum offer is reviewed annually.

### Key Stage 4 Subjects

Construction & Engineering	Drama	Contemporary Cuisine	Public Services
Art and Design	History	French	Business and Communication Systems
Child Development	King's Trust	Business Studies	English Language
Food and Nutrition	Single Award Science	English Literature	Double Award Science
OCN Science	Further Maths	Health and Social Care	Geography
Motor Vehicle Studies	IT	Media Studies	Religious Studies
	Hospitality	Physical Education	Moving Image Arts
	Maths	Sport	Spanish
	Music		Technology & Design



# Learning Support

**As an all-ability school, we ensure that each student is valued and supported to reach their full potential.**

The Head of Learning Support liaises across all subjects, and links with Teaching and Learning Assistants, external support agencies and most importantly, parents.

Learning Support involves whole class provision, in-class support and withdrawal provision for Literacy, Numeracy and Newcomer children. We also work in partnership with a number of external agencies. Our Learning Support Department endeavours to support students to experience success in all aspects of school life.

## Pastoral Care

Strangford Integrated College is child-centred with a whole school approach to the pastoral care of our students. Building up the students' self-awareness and sense of responsibility, we ensure that all students benefit from their experience in the school environment.

All teachers in the College have a pastoral responsibility, providing a caring atmosphere for our students and by being sensitive to the needs of each individual child. Each student has a form tutor who is the primary link between home and college.



Form tutors look after the welfare needs, academic progress, attendance and behaviour of each child in their form class. Tutors from each year group form a team under the Head of Year who monitors the overall progress of each student. Heads of Year, form a team under the Head of Pastoral Care.

Additional support is always available from our Head of Learning Support, Safeguarding team, Assistant Vice Principals and Vice Principals.

Pastoral care is at the heart of everything we do in Strangford Integrated College. We know our students well and ensure that they feel highly valued and secure at all stages of their school lives.

## School Counselling Service

The College employs the services of a Student Counsellor provided by Family Works. Family Works maintain a strict code of confidentiality and its services are available to all students in the college. Students can be referred by the pastoral team or make use of the self-referral service.

*Starting at Strangford Integrated College was exciting but a little nerve-racking at first. However, everyone was so welcoming, and I quickly settled in. The teachers are really supportive, and I've already made lots of new friends. My favourite subjects are Science and T & D because they're both really fun and allow me to be creative. I've joined the Chess Club which has been amazing for meeting new people and trying new things. Strangford Integrated College already feels like a second home!*

**Jack McGowan Year 8**  
*Rathmore Primary School*



# Your future, your choice

## Sixth Form

**We are fortunate to have a thriving expanding Sixth Form.**

Our curriculum is continually developing and is reviewed annually to meet demand and expectation. Students entering Sixth Form have a choice from a range of subjects at both A Level and BTEC Level 3. Students also participate in an Enrichment Programme and have access to Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

Private supervised study is facilitated in a Sixth Form study area. The effective use of private study is a key factor in determining a student's performance in Sixth Form.

## Our Common Room is a social space for Sixth Form students to unwind and relax.

We operate a prefect system, under the leadership of the Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies. Our Head Boy and Head Girl are more than mere figure heads: they lead our students and represent the College at public occasions.

As well as our Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies, we have House Prefects and Senior Prefects who are

role models for the younger students. In Year 13, we host a residential at Lorne House and in Year 14, a residential at Corrymeela. Both of these experiences give students the opportunity to reflect on their time at Strangford Integrated College and how the values of an integrated college can transfer to society.

*My experience in school has been both enjoyable and rewarding. Studying Maths, Health and Social Care, ICT, and Travel and Tourism has given me a well-rounded education and helped me develop a variety of skills. Maths has sharpened my problem-solving and analytical thinking, while Health and Social Care has deepened my understanding of people and relationships. ICT has equipped me with essential digital skills, and Travel and Tourism has broadened my knowledge of the world and sparked my creativity. Overall, school has been a journey of growth, and I'm grateful for the support and opportunities I've received along the way.*

**Carla Keenan Year 13**  
*Ballyvester Primary School*





# Innovation

Students have access to a wide range of school facilities and equipment including Clevertouch screens in all teaching spaces, 5 Computer Suites, a Mac Suite and iPads to support learning and teaching strategies in a fully Wi-Fi enabled site.

All of our students make use of personal iPads as part of a blended learning approach. As a school, we are committed to advancing the versatility of our students to be able to use technology for learning and enjoyment.

ICT is a Cross Curricular Skill and our students are encouraged to use ICT in a variety of ways through all the Departments within school.

*Joining Strangford Integrated College was a big change, but it's been such a positive experience. From the first day, the school felt welcoming, and the teachers and older students were really helpful. I love subjects like Maths and History because they challenge me, and the lessons are always interesting. One of the best parts of being here is the variety of extracurricular activities. I've joined the choir and the Eco-club, which have helped me meet new people and explore my interests. Strangford Integrated College has given me so many opportunities already, and I'm excited to see what's next!*

**Eva-Rose Boal Year 8**  
*Comber Primary School*



# Beyond the Classroom with Strangford Plus

Strangford Integrated College offers opportunities for students to develop beyond the classroom. Enhancement activities are offered in Sport, the Arts and Music.

We believe Strangford Plus is a fantastic vehicle for providing fun experiences and developing character, through encouraging students to develop their interests and to try new activities, with like-minded students. Additional clubs and societies are regularly added – often at the suggestion of individual students, or the Students' Council.

*I was so nervous before starting Year 8 in Strangford Integrated College as it seemed so big. My Primary School was very small. I really enjoy Maths and Music. I play football after school. It's great fun and you get to meet lots of people with the same interests as you. My advice to anyone thinking of coming to Strangford is not to worry and get stuck into everything and have fun! I'm glad I put Strangford Integrated College as my first choice.*

**Lucas Hagen Year 9**  
*Loughries Integrated Primary School*



Anti-bullying Ambassadors
Athletics
Art Club
Badminton
Board Games
Camogie
Choir (Junior and Senior)
Cross Country
Drama Club
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
Gaelic Football
Gardening Club
Golf Society
Hockey
Hurling
ICT Club
Library and Book Club
Maths Support
Minecraft Club
Netball Club
Rugby
Sailing Club
STEM Scalextric Club
Students' Council
Soccer
Traditional Music Group
Young Enterprise



# Your voice, your vision

## The School Council

Strangford Integrated College has an active School Council which is a vehicle for change both within the College and the wider community. Representatives are elected and in addition to voicing the opinions and ideas of students, the Council allows opportunities for students to play a key role in the democratic processes in the College. Student Voice is a high priority at Strangford. The leadership skills of the council representatives are nurtured and developed during their time on the council. The School Council in the past has been successful in working to bring about improvements in the school. Our students are the driving force behind a new canteen extension. Members of the School Council are involved with charity work and volunteer work in the local community. Many of our council representatives have gone on to achieve places on local youth councils and parliaments and some have become the youth representatives for various political parties.

## Parents' Council

Strangford Integrated College has an enthusiastic Parents' Council which is open to all parents with students at the College. All new parents are strongly encouraged to play an active role in the Parents' Council, which both mobilises and organises parental support and participation. The College promotes and encourages parental involvement at all levels of College life. Last year the Parents' Council organised a Halloween Disco which was thoroughly enjoyed by Year 8 and 9 students as well as a wonderful summer fete. The Parents' Council is invaluable in raising funds to help support the work of the College.

The College promotes and encourages parental involvement at all levels of College life.



# A path to be proud of

## Jasmine Graham, Head Girl Year 14

Millisle Primary School

*Strangford Integrated College has been a place where I've grown in confidence and developed my leadership skills. As Head Girl, I'm proud to represent a school that supports and inspires its students every day. My involvement in Young Enterprise has been a highlight of my time here—I've learned so much about teamwork, creativity, and business. The school encourages you to step out of your comfort zone, whether it's through academic endeavours, extracurricular activities, or leadership roles. Strangford feels like a big family, and I'm so thankful for the opportunities and friendships I've gained during my time here.*



## Jed Nelson, Head Boy Year 14

Greyabbey Primary School

*Being Head Boy at Strangford Integrated College is an honour and a role I take great pride in. Over the years, the school has given me incredible opportunities to grow as a leader and as a person. As a keen rugby player, I've loved representing the school on the pitch, and the camaraderie in the team reflects the supportive environment throughout the college. The teachers here genuinely care, helping you reach your potential, both academically and in extra-curricular activities. Strangford has been a huge part of shaping who I am today, and I'm grateful for everything it has given me.*





# A Rights Respecting School

**At Strangford Integrated College we are committed to teaching young people about their rights, putting them into practice and we encourage the students to be advocates for students' rights around the world.**

The Award is not just about what students do but also, importantly, what adults do. In a Rights Respecting School, students' rights are promoted and realised, adults and students work towards this goal together.

A Rights Respecting School is a place where students feel safe and confident in the fact that their rights are being advocated for. We are a school that has fully embedded students' rights into our ethos. Each month we focus on a different right for our students. We teach about that right, get involved in different events and days to promote the right and think about how we can support others for whom that right is being oppressed.

**We are a school that has fully embedded students' rights into our school ethos.**

The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community.

- **Students are healthier and happier**
- **Students feel safe**
- **Students have better relationships**
- **Students become active and involved in school life and the wider world**



# Kind hearts, strong stands

## Kindness and Anti-Bullying

Strangford Integrated College is proud to have achieved the Kindness UK School of the Year Award for 'Excellence in Kindness'. This is the ninth consecutive year we have been awarded this accreditation for promoting, sharing and uniting kindness. In November we celebrate Kindness Week. Students are involved in a host of different activities to help demonstrate kindness to others. Both students and teachers enjoy having the opportunity to celebrate our community in this way. However, kindness is not just for one week.

## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

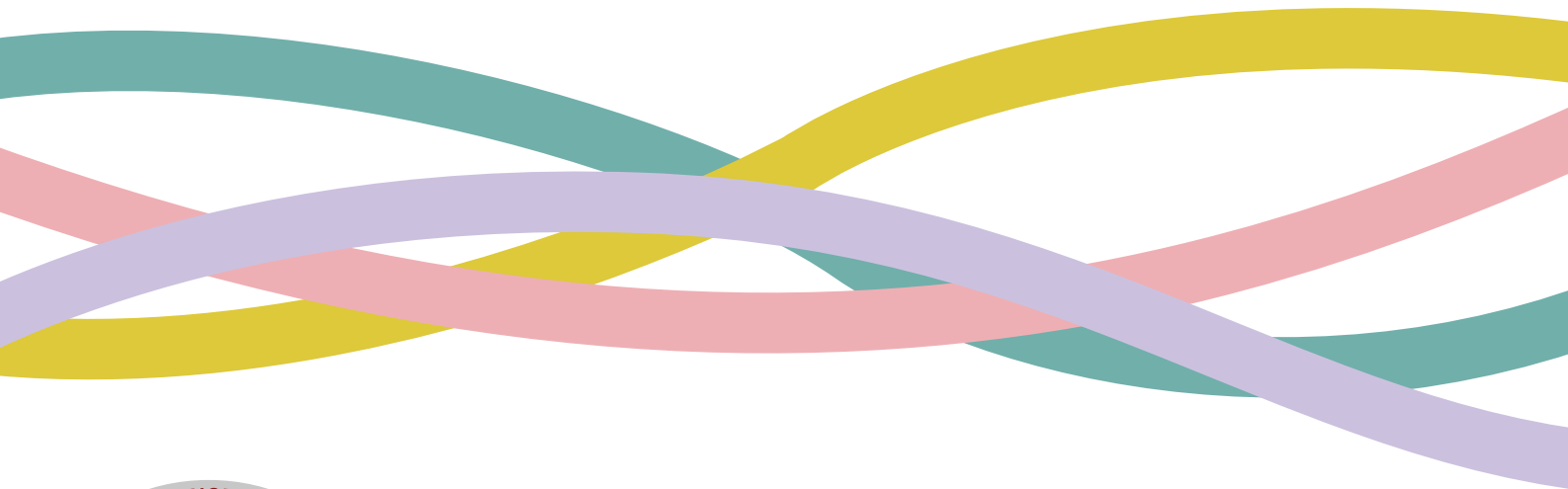
Strangford Integrated College is proud to boast a thriving team of student-led Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Our ambassador team crosses all key

stages and have completed their training through the Diana Award. The ambassadors are identifiable by their badge and a blue hoodie which they wear at break and lunch-time. In addition to their weekly drop-in session and regular assemblies, the ambassadors are very active in the school. Through their student led initiatives, the ambassadors have been awarded three additional badges by the Diana Award for Respect, Community and Well-being.

**In the Strangford community, Kindness is one of our core values and is lived out every day.**







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 Strangford College

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**#bettertogether**

