

Collège de la Coutancière

Presentation in English

La Chapelle-sur-Erdre

La Chapelle-sur-Erdre is a residential town of about 20,000 inhabitants that borders the city of Nantes. It is part of the Nantes Metropolitan Area. With 33 km² of land, it has both urban and rural areas. On its eastern side, the quaint Erdre river stretches over 7 km with manors and castles found along its banks. Overall, the town has a valuable historical and natural heritage which makes it attractive to residents and visitors.

La Chapelle-sur-Erdre is well served by public transport as well as the road system and it is located in the immediate vicinity of the University of Nantes as well as many cultural venues. It directly benefits from Nantes's dynamism.



The City of Nantes

Nantes along with its neighbouring cities ranks as France's 7th largest metropolitan area with about 700,000 residents. It is only 2 hours west of Paris by TGV and 50 km from beaches and harbours on the Atlantic Ocean.



Nantes is located on the Loire River. Since its founding, it has been a major trading port city. Today the Nantes-Saint-Nazaire metropolis is the leading Atlantic port in France. Even though the Nantes area has gone through a period of deindustrialization and its residents work in the service sector, it is still famous for its food industry and aeronautical engineering. Nantes is also known for its companies specialized in computer science services, consulting and finance.

Named "City of Art and History", Nantes has historical monuments such as the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany as well as a controversial past, as it was once a slave-trading port. The dynamic cultural life is constantly changing. The old shipyards on the Île de Nantes have given way to tourist attractions created by the *Machines de l'île*. Nantes develops and exports its international cultural events such as the *Folle Journée de Nantes*, a classical music festival, or the *Voyage à Nantes*, a summer-long artistic and poetic trail through the city.

Nantes is also a university city where opportunities in higher education abound. Named European Green Capital in 2013 and European Capital of Innovation in 2019, Nantes and its surrounding towns keep attracting more and more students, residents and businesses.

La Coutancière Middle School : Collège de la Coutancière

The Coutancière public middle school (*collège de la Coutancière*) is located in La Chapelle-sur-Erdre, right next to Nantes. The immediate surroundings of the school consist of a heavily wooded residential area. Built in 1983 to respond to the growth of the school-age population, it now welcomes half of its students from La Chapelle-sur-Erdre and the remainder from Sucé-sur-Erdre, a neighbouring town. Most students come by school bus.



For the 2021-22 academic year, the school has about 550 students and 20 classes. The children arrive at age 11 and stay four years in the school. The levels are called "sixième" (6^{ème}), "cinquième" (5^{ème}), "quatrième" (4^{ème}) and "troisième" (3^{ème}). The incoming students start in "sixième". In addition, a Special Education Class includes 12 students.



The school opens its doors at 7:45 a.m. The course day begins at 8:05 a.m. running till 4:35 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays Thursdays and Fridays, and until 12:05 p.m. on Wednesdays. Students have a lunch break of about 90 minutes and most eat in the school cafeteria where full meals are served. Some students go home for lunch. Upon arrival and during breaks, pupils are supervised by the School Life Department (*Service Vie Scolaire*). The school staff of about 70 persons includes 38 teachers, 7 School Life assistants, 5 management and administrative personnel, 7 social and medical support staff, as well as staff for food catering, housekeeping, maintenance and reception.