

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SPORT & CULTURE

RHEYNN YNSEE, SPOYRT
AS CULTOOR



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

EDUCATION ACT 150TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET 1872 - 2022

Commemorative booklet
with historical logbook information and
modern up dates from Island schools.



Sir James Gell
Chairman of the Board of
Education 1872



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin



GVH Kneale CBE
Chairman of the Board of
Education 1972



Graham Kinrade
CEO of the Department of
Education, Sport & Culture
2022

FOREWORD

We are in a very different place today, than the last time these commemorative exercises in 1972 took place, with many changes within education over the past 50 years.

As the Island has developed and the population has grown, so has the provision of educational facilities across the Island which has adapted to match that changing need. The Department of Education, Sport and Culture is now responsible for operating 32 primary schools, 5 secondary schools and the University College (UCM), welcoming a further nine primary schools and two secondary schools since 1972. Three of the schools have moved premises or joined with another and more recently we have six of our schools sharing three affiliate headships.

Today, the Department's responsibilities extend beyond the provision of education, as it also incorporates two further divisions: Manx Sport and Recreation and Culture. Manx Sport and Recreation operates the National Sports Centre and provides a wide range of sporting activities throughout the community. The Culture Division's remit extends to the Island's main entertainment complex at VillaGaiety housing the iconic Gaiety Theatre, the Villa Marina and the Arts Development team.

The Department also operates the Manx Gaelic immersion school which opened in 1992 and offers all Island school children lessons in Manx, delivered by the Manx Language Team.

The previous fifty years have seen our schools become ever more embedded within our communities with their facilities used by numerous sectors of those communities. There have been many notable moments over the years, from the opening of new schools to the planting of the Millennium Oak Wood where every school child was invited to plant a tree to create the wood.

There have also been periods of time when schools were forced to close, either due to weather, snow in 2013, or the recent global pandemic, where schools adapted rapidly to enable students to learn online from their homes.

All schools are UNESCO Biosphere partners and by celebrating our unique history, heritage and culture, our young people enjoy a sense of belonging and pride in our unique traditions and language.

Graham Kinrade
CEO Department of Education, Sport & Culture

INTRODUCTION

2022 – the 150th anniversary of the 1872 Isle of Man Act for Public Elementary Education.

‘Education for all’ on the Isle of Man has a long history. In the late 1600s, Bishop Barrow established schools in the Island’s seventeen parishes and four towns. Many of today’s primary schools have roots in these schools. As early as 1704 legislation on compulsory education was promulgated as an Act of Tynwald. In the early 1800s the parish schools were supplemented by a number of ‘National’ schools opened under the auspices of the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales. Several of today’s primary schools grew out of these ‘National Schools’. Other schools were provided privately, by religious denominations or by a combination of private endowments and government grants. By the 1860s, around 50% of children of school age were enrolled in and attending schools.

The 1872 Act is a landmark in the Island’s educational history. It made education accessible to all children by re-affirming compulsory education (for 7-13 years olds) and committing government to fund the costs of buildings, equipment and teacher salaries. It set in motion the transfer of the control of education from the Church to the State through the establishment of the Isle of Man Board of Education, the election of twenty-one local School Committees and the transfer to their management of schools which became known as Board Schools. The Act mandated the raising of a local rate to contribute to the finance of the scheme, alongside central government revenue, school fees and donations. It provided for non-denominational Bible teaching in Board schools.

In 1869, Governor Loch had announced his hope that the Isle of Man would ‘be the first... to introduce a large, broad, and comprehensive system of education’. A series of lively debates around compulsory attendance, the teaching of religion, the appointment and election of school committees and the imposition of a local rate slowed the passage of the Bill. It was finally given Royal Assent on April 22nd, 1872, promulgated by Tynwald Court at St John’s Chapel on May 9th, 1872, and presented to the public at the open-air annual Tynwald ceremony on July 5th, 1872. Parish and town-based School Committees were established quickly and the process of school transfers to the Island’s Board of Education began in 1873.

The 1872 Act resonated with aspects of the Elementary Education Act of England and Wales 1870 and the Education (Scotland) Act 1872. But it was a copy of neither. For example, the Isle of Man Act made education compulsory for all children aged 7-13. In England and Wales, compulsory education was enacted only in 1880 and for children aged 5-10 years. The Scotland Act mandated compulsory education for children 5-13 years.

The Act laid the foundation for further legislation and the development of an improved and expanded school system. Over time, pupil fees were abolished, the school leaving age raised, the quantity and quality of teachers increased, and the range of curriculum subjects and teaching methods broadened. By the end of the 1940s non-selective comprehensive secondary education for all children aged 11 years and over had been established, many years ahead of similar developments in England, Wales and Scotland. The 'Elementary schools' for children aged 5-14 years were transformed into 'primary schools' for children aged 5-11 years. The Island's population began to grow from the 1970s, resulting in the opening of new schools and substantial extensions of existing schools.

Today's system of public education comprises thirty-two primary schools, five secondary schools and the University College Isle of Man. The 1872 Act was pivotal in creating the bedrock on which today's system rests. Today's system is building the futures of our younger generations. They, in turn, will create the next stage in the story of its development.

Angela W Little

Professor Emerita, UCL Institute of Education and Member of the Board of Culture Vannin

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Anagh Coar School, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mr. R Coole

The first pupils started at the new primary school on 26th April 1976. Since the building was not ready those registered attended Manor Park School until June. Norma Cowell was the school's first head teacher remaining until 2000, coming back for the 40th anniversary in 2016 to share stories from her 24 years. Current head teacher, Rob Coole, took over from Vicky Dassoulas in May 2010. Today the school is linked once again with Manor Park with Mr. Coole currently overseeing both schools.

Andreas School, Andreas Village, Parish of Andreas

2022 Head teacher Mrs. T Dudley

The Andreas school started life in 1676. A 'new' building was erected in 1787 and another in 1836. Following the 1872 Act the school was transferred to the Andreas School Committee and the building received a building grant for enlargement. The core of the present school building was erected in 1902/3 when Mr. W Radcliffe was the head teacher. Andreas School still lies at the heart of the community. There are regular events such as the Root Show and the Harvest Festival which involve all the children. The school is very forward thinking in its approach to learning but still values these village traditions. It cannot be said of many schools in 2022 that every pupil walks up to the local church to celebrate the harvest.

Arbory School, Ballabeg, Parish of Arbory

2022 Head teacher Mr. J Ayres

The Arbory school originated as a parish school in the 1670s. A 'new' school building was erected in 1834 when the head teacher was Mr. R Kewley. The parish transferred the school to the Arbory School Committee in 1874 and its building was extended with a government grant in 1882. Substantial extension and renovation work was undertaken in 1976. The following are some of Arbory's logbook entries: 1901 - Following the death of the Queen, the Lady of Mann, the school was opened with blinds drawn. 1916 - Four large sacks of foxglove leaves were collected by the children and sent to Manx Industries Association to be made into medicine for wounded soldiers. During the Second World War children had half-day holidays for blackberry picking. 672 lbs. were collected on 2nd October and 935 lbs. on 5th October 1942. 1970 - Twenty-three bottles of milk were unfit for use having been attacked and the tops opened by bluetits! 1972 - Head teacher Arthur Crellin started a Manx Club at the school and at his retirement in 1976, pupils Philip Gawne and Julie Taggart recited a duologue in Manx, which was then repeated in English by Amanda Jackson & Richard Collister.

Ashley Hill School, Onchan, Parish of Onchan

2022 Head teacher Mr. P Lewis

Ashley Hill School opened in 1972, the Centenary year of the 1872 Act, to support the growth of the Onchan community. 2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of Ashley Hill School. Its inaugural Head teacher was Mr. Henley Crowe. The school currently has 250 children on roll and is fortunate to have a large area of land where children can enjoy Forest School activities as part of their weekly curriculum. Upon entry to Ashley Hill, you will have a warm welcome from us all, including Asher (our school dog) and the school chickens! The 50th Anniversary was marked with a special Sports Day and celebration picnic on the lower school field.

Ballacottier School, Farmhill, Parish of Braddan

2022 Head teacher Mrs. R Forrester

Ballacottier Primary School opened its doors to pupils for the first time on September 8th 1998. It was opened by the Honorable Edgar J Mann who was the education minister at the time. At that time there were only 96 pupils on roll, but this number has now risen to over 230. The first head teacher was Mr. John Rhodes. The name 'Ballacottier' is translated from Manx as meaning Cottier's place or farm. Further research from J.J. Kneen's book 'Personal Names of the Isle of Man' stated that the name Cottier originated from MacOtter, meaning 'son of Ottar.' The extract goes on to say that 'a certain Donald MacOtter of Ballacottier, Kirk Braddan, was in the House of Keys in 1502'. With the above information, the school logo was designed incorporating a picture of an otter.

Ballasalla School, Ballasalla, Parish of Malew

2022 Head teacher Mr. J Cox

The present school was built in 1954 and extended subsequently. In 1972 Mr. A Q Russell was the head teacher. The earlier 'National' school, erected close to the Silverburn river ford, was opened in 1845. It was transferred to the Malew School Committee in the 1870s and became known as the Ballasalla Board School. Over the past five years pupil numbers have increased from 82 to 123. All classrooms are now fully utilised, and the school has a full headcount of six teachers. The school enjoys engaging with the local community and offers weekly Forest School lessons at Silverdale Glen. The school's values of Respect, Learning and Happiness are promoted across all areas of school life. The school has developed its learning environment both outside and in to promote independent learning. Everyone's favourite morning activity is stroking Rollo the school dog!

Ballaugh School, Ballaugh, Parish of Ballaugh

2022 Head teacher Dr. G Cushnie

This school started life as a parish school in 1669. 'New' buildings and dwelling houses for the Master and Mistress of a school for girls were provided in the 1700s, the early 1800s and in 1873. The school was transferred to the Ballaugh School Committee in 1875. Mr. J Wallace was the head teacher at that time. Previous head teachers include Mr. P Reynolds & Mr. R Clarke. The water pump remains next to the river, although only as a curiosity to the children now. The school was extended in 1996 with two new Key Stage 2 classrooms, and with the addition of a "mobile" classroom, it now has four. Mr. Reynolds established the Friends of Ballaugh School to fundraise for the school in 1985. It is still going strong, providing invaluable assistance to the school, not least so that no parent must contribute to the cost of transport for school trips. The Easter egg hunt, mhelliah, tombolas and spring fayres are regular fixtures of the school calendar as are the school's involvement in Remembrance Sundays and the local Hollantide Fair.

Braddan School, Braddan, Parish of Braddan

2022 Head teacher Mrs. L Oates

The present, much extended school building, opened in 1894 and replaced the 1860 school of which Mr. D Southwell was the head teacher. Braddan School HMI's Report dated 27th July 1922 includes the following: This school is developing along good lines, the teachers work with thoughtful care, with well-directed purpose and on the whole with commendable success... If a sewing machine were provided more garments could be made, and the training become more varied and useful... The past year has been one of vigorous and hopeful effort; the children are under exceptionally good control and are pleasingly responsive and the teaching is developing in interest and power in every way.

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, St Johns, Parish of German

2022 Head teacher Bnr. J Matthews

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh opened in 2001 at the Ballacottier School site. In January 2003 it moved to the site of the St Johns School. After TT week, it moved to its current building, the former St Johns primary school building. Julie Matthews was appointed as the head teacher in 2006. Bunscoill Ghaelgagh is the only school in the world to teach through the medium of the Manx language. Many visitors and TV crews have taken an interest. Even John Craven from Newsround visited with Ben Fogle!

Ghow yn Vunscoill Ghaelgagh toshiaght 2001 ayns Bunscoill Ballacottier. Ren ee scughey gys Bunscoill Balley Keeill Eoin Jerrey Geuree 2003, eisht, lurg shiaghtin ny Ratçhyn TT, gys troggal yn eear Vunscoill Balley Keeill Eoin t'ee ayn jiu. Va Julie Matthews pointit yn ard er ynsee 2006. She'n un scoill 'sy theihll ee vees gynsaghey trooid yn Ghaelg as ta ymmodee keayrtee er ve ayn as skimmeeyn çhellveeish as sym oc urree. Ren eer John Craven ass Newsround keayrt marish Ben Fogle!

Bunscoill Rhumsaa, Ramsey

2022 Head teacher Mr. D Jenkins

Through the nineteenth century there were several types of school in Ramsey – National, Wesleyan and Private. The first Board of Education school, the Albert Road School, was opened in 1905. The Auldyn Infants' School opened on a new site in 1974 and the Albert Road Junior School moved to the same site in 2008 changing its name to Scoill Ree Gorree. Under the leadership of Mrs. J Barrow, they were united as a single school, Bunscoill Rhumsaa, in September 2013. The foundation stone for the new Ree Gorree building was laid by former Albert Road teacher Mike Boulton. Mr. Boulton had taught at the old Albert Road school for 33 years and still regularly teaches traditional music with 'Share na Veg' at Bunscoill Rhumsaa. The name of the school was chosen after consultation with the local community. Recently Bunscoill Rhumsaa has formed a 'loose federation' with Sulby School, with both schools sharing the same headteacher.

Cronk y Berry School, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mrs. A Quane

The school was opened in September 1998 as part of the newly formed Governor's Hill Estate. Mr. D Gorman was its first head teacher. Pupils joined the school predominantly from Ashley Hill School and Willaston Primary. The Hon. Edgar Mann laid the foundation stone on 7th May 1997 and the school was formally opened on 6th November 1998 by Mr. John Houghton MHK.

Dhoon School, Glen Mona, Parish of Maughold

2022 Head teacher Mr. M Kelly

The Dhoon school opened in 1876 following the 1872 Act. Miss M A Preston was the head teacher. The school replaced the former Dhoon Bridge and Lhaggan schools. In July 2016, the much extended and modernised school celebrated its 140th anniversary with a special day that included a church service in Glen Mona Church, led by the Bishop's Missioner Nigel Cretney, and a fete on the school field in the afternoon attended by the Lt. Governor, His Excellency Sir Richard Gozney. In September 2017 Dhoon School was formally federated with Laxey School. Both schools now share a head teacher and their staff and pupils collaborate, share resources and benefit from closer ties and links. Dhoon and Laxey were the first schools to federate on the Isle of Man.

Foxdale Primary School, Foxdale, Parish of Patrick

2022 Head teacher Miss. A Griffiths

Foxdale Primary School (Bunscoill Forsdale) was built in 1991 to replace the building that started life as the 'National School'. The National School opened in 1846, and was transferred to the Patrick School Committee in 1902, or the lower Foxdale Church of England Voluntary School, transferred in 1901. At that time the head teacher of the National Boys' School was Mr. T Hudson and of the Girls' School Miss M Edwards. The former National School is situated less than 100m away from the current school and is now a residential property called 'The Old School House'. Between 1983 and 2010 Mr. Stuart Lambie was head teacher in the old and the new Foxdale school buildings. After Stuart's retirement in 2010, Ann Jessop became head teacher, followed by the current head teacher Anna Griffiths, in post since 2020. Over the years Foxdale School has had some interesting visitors including Dr John Sentamu the Archbishop of York, Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor, and the film crew of 'Keeping Mum', including Rowan Atkinson and Dame Maggie Smith, who even filmed some of their scenes on the school site!

Henry Bloom Noble Primary School, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mrs. R Ashley

Henry Bloom Noble Primary School was formed by the amalgamation in April 2014 of Fairfield Junior School (previously Tynwald Street School, built 1882) and Ballacloan Infants (previously Demesne Road School, opened 1908). The school moved into brand new premises in September 2016 and has fantastic learning facilities and was opened formally in 2017 when Mr. I Walmsley was the head teacher. The school is situated in the heart of Douglas, near the busy business and finance district. It is built on the site of the second Noble's Hospital and, like the hospital, is named after Henry Bloom Noble who lived in the Isle of Man in the Nineteenth Century. As a school we constantly focus on teaching and learning. Our tag line, 'Together we Learn and Grow', is embedded in everything we do.

Jurby Community School, Jurby, Parish of Jurby

2022 Head teacher Mr. W Nelson

On 26th March 2022, Jurby Community School celebrated 40 years in its current building. The original parish school opened in the late 1600s and was located inside the parish church. A 'new' schoolhouse and dwelling for the Master were opened in 1766. The Jurby 'New' Parochial School was opened in 1863 with Mr. J R Oates as its head teacher. After this school closed in 1938 the pupils travelled to the Andreas school by bus. The Jurby Infants and Junior school opened on the Royal Air Force site in 1970 and closed in 1981. The new Community School opened in 1982. As part of the 40th anniversary celebrations in 2022 the children buried a time capsule which we hope will be dug up again when the school celebrates its 75th anniversary. Most children walk or cycle to school as they only live on the other side of the field. There are currently plans to build at least 50 new houses in the school catchment which we hope will lead to an increase in the school roll.

Kewaigue School, Kewaigue Hill, Parish of Braddan

2022 Head teacher Mr. A Shorthouse

Following the 1872 Act, the Kewaigue School opened on 10th October 1892 after permission was granted to draw water from the well across the lane at the back of the school. The head teacher was Mr. B Cooper. During the first months following the school's opening attendance was irregular, due to the severity of weather and illnesses including measles. At one point 17 children residing in Quine's Hill could not get to school because of the unsafe condition of the Bridge known as Fairy Bridge. In May 1964, an HMI report concluded: "The headmaster and his assistant teacher have continued to serve well the interests of the children in this school. It is a happy place where there is concern for individuals, and where the boys and girls learn to work hard, to become self-reliant and to develop a natural lively interest in many things," From an original 12 pupils on 10th October 1892, extensions in 1995, 2000 and 2012 have provided space for a growth in pupil numbers which have at times peaked at 154.

Laxey School, Laxey, Parish of Lonan

2022 Head teacher Mr. M Kelly

The current Laxey primary school in Laxey began life as the Laxey Elementary School, opened in 1929 with Mr. E Killip as head teacher. This 1929 school replaced the Laxey Glen Boys, Girls and Infants, Laxey Infants and South Cape Schools. In 1999 the school was extended to accommodate the growing population of a buoyant village. The extension included a new sports hall facility complete with disabled access, a lift, changing rooms, and a community entrance. Long-serving Laxey MHK, and later President of Tynwald, Mr. Steve Rodan, officially opened the extension in December 1999 at a formal ceremony. In September 2017 Laxey School was formally federated with Dhoon School, with both schools now sharing a head teacher. This arrangement was the first of its kind in the Isle of Man, and is a model that has since been replicated.

Manor Park School, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mr. R Coole

Around 1970 the then Board of Education decided to open a new junior school for the area of Pulrose. The main reason for this was to bring the school nearer to the pupils' homes and avoid lengthy daily travel to the centre of Douglas. The Sunshine Infants' school, which already served the younger children of Pulrose, had opened in 1937 with Miss M M Creer at the helm. The new Junior school was built on land below the Infants school. It opened in 1973 and its head teacher was Mr. Alan Lynch. Its name, Manor Park School, was selected by a pupil - Gary Roberts. The logbook says: "The school is built on the 'open place' to accommodate, finally, 240 pupils. There were this morning 150 pupils entered on the roll. These children were drawn from Demesne Road (boys) Tynwald Street (girls) and Pulrose Infants (7 yr. olds)." The Infants and Junior schools merged in 1986 to become a primary school.

Marown Primary School, Parish of Marown

2022 Head teacher Mr. I Longshaw

The Marown Parochial School served the children of this parish for two centuries from the late 17th century. The parish church authorities transferred the school to the Marown School Committee in 1876 and a new school building was erected on Hillside, Old Church Road in 1878. The head teacher, Mr. Karran, retired in 1877 and was succeeded by Mr. Grindley. In October 1985, Marown School moved to a new building. On this day, Mr. Quirk locked the door on the old school building on the hill, walked the children and staff down to the new site, and opened the doors to welcome them in. To celebrate the new school's 30th anniversary, Mr. Longshaw led a whole school trip to return to the old building where Mr. Quirk led a lesson about how life used to be in the old school. In 2001 the school exceeded capacity and so benefitted from an extension. Marown Primary school currently has 165 pupils on roll and is run as a single form entry.

Michael School, Kirk Michael, Parish of Michael

2022 Head teacher Mrs. K Riley

The Michael Parish School opened in the 1670s. In 1835 a 'new' building was constructed on the Main Road opposite the church. Mr. Patrick Kelly was the head teacher for 54 years between 1820 and 1874. The school was transferred to the Michael School Committee in 1875 and extended in 1878. At that time Mr. E Cain was the head teacher. The logbook contains entries about the school moving into the present building in November 1894, leading to "considerable excitement and jubilation among the scholars" who were presented with "a nice packet of sweets". The now much-extended school celebrated its 125th year in 2019 with a fantastic Victorian school day and anniversary ball. Many generations of families have passed through the primary school, with the school song summing it up with the lines 'This is our school beating like a village heart, this is our school where so many made a start. Every year passing by, memories never die, we are very proud of Michael School!'.

Onchan Primary School, Parish of Onchan

2022 Head teacher Mrs. J Richardson

The Onchan Parish School served the local community from the 1670s on various sites. Following its transfer to the Onchan School Committee, a new school building was opened on School Road, since which time the school has been extended and modernized several times. Following Mr. Cretney in 1972, there have been three other head teachers: Mr. Taggart - whose Grandchildren we were delighted to have at Onchan School in recent years and continues our links with our families in our community - and Mrs. Farrell. Jo Richardson became the current head teacher in 2008. Onchan lists its' school values as Integrity, Respect, Endeavour, Compassion and Courage; five qualities which as a school community we feel will equip our young people well as they continue their education and employment in the 21st Century. We are proud of our school where we work so well together and enjoy our school days.

Peel Clothworkers School, Peel

2022 Head teacher Mrs. A Jackson

A school building and dwelling house for the Master were provided in 1687 through the will of Philip Christian, a native of Peel, who had become a successful weaver in London and a member of the famous Clothworkers' Company. Christian bequeathed rents from his properties to provide free education for the children in Peel. He also left money ' . . . for buying of small books, pens, ink, and paper, or what shall be thought most fit by the minister and schoolemaster of the town of Peele . . . for the use of the poorest men's sons and daughters of the said towne of Peel, inhabiting there, and not otherwise'. The Infants, Junior and Senior sections of the school developed over time and operated on different sites within the town of Peel. The 1842 building is now used as a community centre. After the re-organisation of elementary and secondary education a 'new' primary school was opened in 1953 on its present site on Derby Road.

Rushen Primary School, Port St Mary, Parish of Rushen

2022 Head teacher Mrs. S Owens

The roots of the Rushen Primary School lie in the Parochial School opened in the 1670s. The present school premises date back to 1927 under the headship of Mr WE Kelly. This school was an amalgamation of six smaller schools, three of which had been transferred to the Rushen School Committee soon after the 1872 Act and three were newly established thereafter. The 1927 school site had an extensive garden, the framed plan of which is still in existence, in our school. Following the separation of primary and secondary schools the name was changed on the 23rd of February 1949 from 'Rushen Central School' to 'Rushen Primary School'. It has built on its strengths as a successful school at the heart of the local community. In 1981, the school had an inspection by HM Inspectorate: 'The school is in good heart. The spirit and endeavour of both children and staff are immediately apparent and there is every reason for confidence that the school will continue to build on its strengths.' The school works closely with the local community, including the businesses of Port Erin, Rotary Club, Southlands Retirement Home and Port Erin Commissioners, and has adopted Port Erin beach where we have a long-standing partnership with the Isle of Man Beach Buddies and which supports our focus on the Isle of Man's UNESCO Biosphere status.

Scoill Phurt le Moirrey, Port St Mary, Parish of Rushen

2022 Head teacher Mrs. A Callaghan

Scoill Phurt le Moirrey, opened in 1994 under the headship of Mrs. C A Lawson, is a thriving village school in the heart of Port St Mary. The original ethos statement for the school was based on the development of the whole child with an intention to equip pupils with the basic skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to take them forward successfully into their future and enable them to live together with respect for others and the world in which they live. Today, our core values of Respect, Enthusiasm, Confidence, Love of Learning and Happiness continue to underpin the same ethos, which is enjoyed and celebrated by the whole school community.

Scoill Vallajeelt, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Miss. D Lyon

Mr. W. K. Quirk MLC CP opened Scoill Vallajeelt on 27th November 1992 , although it had already admitted children since September of that year to educate children in Saddlestone. Its inaugural head teacher was Mr. D Brown. Such was the demand for a school in the area that an extension was added in 2005 and opened by Captain AC Douglas in November 2005. In September 2018, St. Thomas' Church of England Primary School was relocated to the Scoill Vallajeelt site as there had been a falling roll at Scoill Vallajeelt and the site had spare capacity. This new site was renamed Meadow Campus and both schools continue to flourish on site as collaborative neighbours - the first co-located site on the Island. Scoill Vallajeelt celebrated its 25th birthday in 2017 and used a drone to take a picture of all the children and staff on the playground in the shape of the number 25. One member of staff, Miss Conway, our Nursery Nurse, has been working in the school since it first opened!

Scoill yn Jubilee, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mrs. J Adamson

Scoill yn Jubilee was created through an amalgamation of Ballaquayle Infants' School and Murray's Road Junior School in September 2012 under the headship of Mrs. L Green. The building on the Infant site dates from 1971 and is a single-storey building of semi open-plan design. The building on the Junior school site was erected in 1969, but there has been a school there since 1899. The Junior school is a two-storey building. The school roll is stable and currently stands at 365. There are 15 classes, plus two dedicated Nurture Groups. The Junior site has a small walled garden and two playgrounds with a designated tree-lined quiet area with decking and benches if children prefer a quieter environment. At the Infant school site, Scoill yn Jubilee has dedicated Forest School provision which includes a 42 square metre wooden cabin. All year groups enjoy Forest School sessions that involve creative outdoor activities, include managing risks safely.

St John's Primary School, St John's, Parish of German

2022 Head teacher Mrs. T Willoughby

A schoolhouse and dwelling house were erected in St John's in 1745, This school functioned as a Parochial School until 1845 when a 'new' schoolhouse was erected. This building is used currently as the St John's Church Hall. Following the 1872 Act, the school was transferred to the German School Committee in 1875. A new building was opened in February 1897, at which time Mr. T Cain was the head teacher. In March 2003, a newly constructed building was opened by Hon Richard Corkill (then Chief Minister) on the site of the old St John's railway station. The head teacher was Mr. Nigel Bennett. The new school is a modern building on a 5.8 acre site with 2292 square meters of teaching space as well as a specialist provision centre, a sports hall and a community wing. Her Majesty the Queen visited the school in July 2003, as part of the Tynwald Day celebrations. The former 1897 building is now used by the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh.

St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mrs. D Martin

The St Mary's Roman Catholic School opened in 1824 with Mr. J Kelly as its Master. Today's St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School was opened on its current site, situated on St Mary's Road, in March 1968 by His Excellency Sir Peter Hyla Gawne Stallard, Lord Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man and blessed by the Right Reverend Augustine Harris, Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool. In 2018 the school underwent an extensive building project to refurbish and extend the old building. This was officially reopened (though it never actually closed!) on 24th September 2021 by Dr. Alex Allinson, Minister for The Department of Education, Sport and Culture with Mrs. Ann Corlett. A dedication and blessing were given by the Right Reverend Thomas Neylon, Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool. Although still colloquially referred to as "The Catholic School", St Mary's R.C. Primary School now welcomes pupils and staff of all faiths and none. A flourishing school, socially and educationally, pupils and staff are looking forward to the continued improvement and development of the outside environment.

St Thomas' Church of England School, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mr. C Kirk

St Thomas' School, opened in 1876, was originally housed in a Victorian building on Finch Road next to the Church. As the needs of a modern curriculum and increasing school roll started to impact on an elderly building, the decision was taken to relocate the school in 2018 to the Meadow Campus in Saddlestone where St Thomas' and Scoill Vallajeelt work side by side. The children reflect fondly on their time in 'the old school' but appreciate the quality of the space in their 'new one'! The school maintains strong links with St Thomas' Church.

Sulby Primary School, Sulby, Parish of Lezayre

2022 Head teacher Mr. D Jenkins

Sulby School has come a long way since it first opened in 1838. In 1879 a new school and dwelling house were erected on an adjacent site with a grant from the Board of Education. The buildings on the present site, adjacent to the first two, were opened in 1991. Originally a rural school for the children of a farming community, the logbooks dating back as far as the 1800's record children being absent during harvesting. One entry from 1887 states, 'So few children put in an appearance this afternoon that it was thought advisable to dismiss them!'.

Victoria Road School, Castletown

2022 Head teacher Mrs. N Johnstone

The Victoria Road school was built with a Board of Education grant as an elementary school for boys in 1895. Girls and Infants were admitted in 1901 and 1911, respectively. Prior to these dates, children had attended the National Schools in Hope Street and in a building on the site that currently houses the church of St Mary's on the Harbour. A substantial extension of the Victoria Road School was opened by Mr. Tony Brown OBE on the 5th February 2014. The new extension comprised a new sports hall with changing rooms, a stage/community room and two brand new classrooms. The school has two time capsules buried on site. The first marks the centenary year of the school (1895 – 1995) and was buried on the 11th of July 1995. This is due to be opened in the year 2045! The second capsule was buried in May 1998 by Castletown Brownies.

Willaston School, Willaston, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mr. R Burton

The Willaston School opened in 1955 with Miss Oates as its head teacher. Willaston School celebrates 70 years in 2025. We celebrated 60 years in 2015, with a wonderful community gathering and with many pictures of Willaston through the decades. Any past pupils who visit the school have such fond memories. Willaston remains a real community school. Each year we strive to have a community event which is always well attended.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Ballakermeen High School, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mrs. A Burnett

Mr. G Corrin (from September 2022)

When opened in 1946 the Ballakermeen school offered junior high school comprehensive education to boys and girls aged 11-14 years. In 1985 Ballakermeen Junior High School became a self-contained High School for those aged 11-18 years. The new school grew rapidly in popularity and the student population swelled accordingly, becoming by far the largest on the Island. A new sports hall was built along with a Sixth Form Centre with kitchens and two large dining rooms. Adrienne Burnett succeeded Ian Masterton, head teacher from 1985 and soon a studio theatre further enhanced the facilities. Dignitaries who have visited include Prince Edward and the Chinese ambassador; former students became Olympic and World champions, and one is currently Chief Constable of the Isle of Man.

Castle Rushen High School, Castletown

2022 Head teacher Mr. K Winstanley

This non-selective, co-educational, comprehensive secondary school admitted its first students in 1948 under the headship of Mr. WG Cretney. The school building comprised a group of concrete huts purchased after the end of the Second World War from the Royal Naval Air Service. A 'new school' opened on the same site in 1962. 'Temporary' extensions added to the 1962 school in 1968 and beyond are still in use, whilst the timescale for a new building remains unknown. However, students and staff are looking forward to activity on the recently completed sports field extension on what must be the largest school field in the British Isles! The school roll is rising with additional students coming from new housing developments in the South. Recruiting teachers is becoming more of a challenge but the satisfaction of seeing each year group progress and enter the world as fully fledged adults continues to provide its own reward.

Queen Elizabeth II High School, Peel

2022 Head teacher Mrs. S Moore

Mrs. C Clarke (from September 2022)

Her Majesty the Queen opened the school in 1979 as part of her visit for the Millennium of Tynwald. It is a co-educational, comprehensive school for 11-18-year-olds. The first head teacher was Mr. R Forster. His Deputy, Mr. H Galbraith, succeeded him in 1984. In 1998, Miss S Moore took over and she will be succeeded after 24 years by Mrs. C Clarke in 2022, a former student of the school. Extensions were built in 2000 for post-16 education, in 2007 for Performing Arts and English and an extension is planned to open in 2025 for Science and Technology.

Ramsey Grammar School, Ramsey

2022 Head teacher Mrs. S Findlater

A grammar school has existed in Ramsey since 1681. It moved to Lezayre Road in 1933 and was housed in a building that now forms the East building of the present school. It was decommissioned and requisitioned by the military during the Second World War from 1940 to 1946. It then re-opened as a non-selective, co-educational comprehensive school. It was the first full comprehensive school in the British Isles. It has three buildings, the East building, West building, and South building. While the South building was being built, a North building, formerly Auldyn Infants' School, was temporarily employed to house pupils. The South building was opened on 24 October 2007 and the North building was demolished, making way for the new junior school for Ramsey, Scoill Ree Gorree, opened in 2008.

St Ninian's High School, Douglas

2022 Head teacher Mr. C Coole

The original Douglas High School, known as Douglas Higher Grade School, opened in 1894 on Park Road. Separate sites for boys and girls were created subsequently at Bray Hill and Park Road in 1927 and 1929 respectively, and for boys and girls in Forms 1 and 2 at the Ballakermeen site on St Catherine's Drive in 1946. In 1985 all government Douglas schools were reorganized. The school in its current existence began under the headship of Mr. I Cottier in September 1985 with the splitting of the original Douglas High School into two separate entities; Ballakermeen High School, which is based on one site near St. Catherine's Drive, and St. Ninian's High School, which had two sites — the Lower School at Park Road, where Years 7 and 8 were based, and the Upper School on Ballaquayle Road, at the top of Bray Hill next to St. Ninian's Church, hence the name adopted for the school. The Upper School now houses all our Sixth Form provision, as well as the base for all our Year 10 and Year 11 students currently studying for their GCSEs and other Level 2 courses. The development of the new Lower School based at Bemahague in Onchan and opened in 2010, was necessary to bring the Lower School provision into the 21st. Century. It replaced the old Park Road school, which closed its doors after 118 years in July 2010. The new site has modern facilities spread out over three floors. The school's former head teacher, George Quayle, laid the foundation stone for the new £33.8m school.

University College Isle of Man

2022 Head teacher Miss. J Kelly

University College Isle of Man (UCM) has a long and illustrious tradition of serving the further education and training needs of the Island's community. In 1880 the Douglas School of Art opened with Archibald Knox being one of the first students. In the early 20th century evening classes were provided by the Island's Education Boards for people wanting to extend their learning beyond primary school; in subjects including Science, Commerce, Technical Instruction, Literature, Domestic Science, Management and Catering. Following the 1944 Education Act, all further education training was combined in the School of Technology, Arts and Crafts in 1947, which became the College of Further Education in 1960. In the early 1970s the College of Further Education moved from the Lord/Barrack Street site, to where it sits today on Homefield Road. In 1991 the title Isle of Man College was adopted in recognition of its wider involvement in general and higher education and its role in underpinning the Manx economy and quality of life. The Isle of Man College and the Isle of Man International Business School merged in 2012, becoming the Isle of Man College of Further and Higher Education and latterly the University College Isle of Man (UCM) in September 2016.

As the Isle of Man's national college, UCM has always strived to provide students with a number of career options, with different levels of qualification to support them to achieve their potential, through academic and vocational courses as well as leisure and recreational courses. UCM continues to operate from its Homefield site, as well as delivery at the Nunnery, the Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Centre, Isle of Man Prison and a number of outreach sites.

THE FUTURE

In this fast, ever-changing world it is increasingly important to retain our future focus. Thus ensuring we bring to bear the latest developments and educational thinking in areas such as technology, brain development and its impact on learning and the role of our indoor and outdoor environments upon building design, to name just a few. This will ensure that our services remain focused, agile and appropriate.

The Department of Education, Sport and Culture has set out an ambitious vision for the future, to enable children, young people and adults on the Isle of Man to achieve their personal goals by offering an accessible, high-quality education, sport and culture provision that meets the needs for all.

By focusing on the children, young people, adults and their future, the Department aims to enrich the lives of individuals, help promote the common values of our Isle of Man society and support the economy by providing a highly motivated and skilled workforce.

I believe that by investing in our children, young people and adults, the Department will safeguard a future education that is resilient, forward thinking, innovative, creative and values equality for all.

Now is the time to provide outstanding lifelong learning and development opportunities, giving people of all ages and at all stages the confidence to develop or gain the skills they need so that they can achieve their full potential.

It is difficult, if not dangerous, to try to predict what the future may or should be. We only have to look at the recent pandemic to understand that life is full of challenges and opportunities. We must remain agile, adaptable and focussed upon the people we serve to ensure the future for education and indeed for the Island.



Julie Edge
Minister of Education
2022



Isle of Man Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin