

Quorn National School

Prior to Quorn National School, the only form of education in Quorn was either through Sunday Schools or private schools. In 1811 the Church of England created ‘The Anglican National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church in England and Wales’. This organisation led to the first ‘National Schools’ being established.

Quorn National School started in 1818 in a room in a domestic property, thought to be either the home of the schoolmaster, or the residence of Rev’d Boyer, curate of Quorn.



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School log books (left) can provide a fascinating insight into school life in Quorn. These two entries from October 1880 record that some of the mothers were quite feisty!

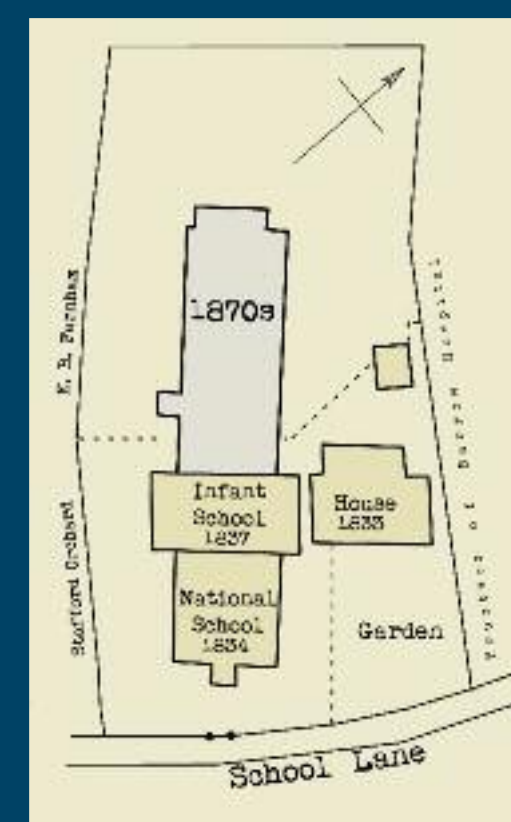
*“13th October 1880 - Emily Disney having misconducted herself at prayers was “kept in”. The Mother came to the school; used the most obscene language, threatened to break the windows and finally directed her daughter to unlock a side door and leave.
14th October 1880 - Gave E. Disney her copy book and excluded her from the school for the present. School interrupted at 10 am by Mrs Disney who again used strong and obscene language. John Kemp punished by detention after morning session. His Mother withdrew him from school treating me to the abusive language which appears characteristic of the women of Quorn”.*



In the earlier part of the nineteenth century, with education being largely administered by the Church of England, provision throughout the country was patchy. The 1870 Elementary Education Act provided education for all, and allowed for the establishment of School Boards. Quorn became a divided village. The non-conformists and many of the general population wanted the school to be run by a School Board, but the gentry and the vicar were powerful men. There was a poll in the Village Hall and it was said that John Davys Cradock from Quorn Court

attended, noting how people voted. Many people were either employed or were tenants of the various powerful families and were frightened for their livelihoods. Quorn National School stayed under the control of the Church of England Managers until the 1902 Education Act created Local Education Authorities.

In order to house the extra children identified by the 1870 act as requiring education, the school was expanded to the north-west, and this is where you are standing today.



During 1833 a house for the headmaster, Joseph Camm, was built on this site next to Stafford Orchard, on land owned by the ancient Quorn Townland’s Charity. This was quickly followed in 1834 by the first classroom and in 1837 an infant room was added.

Life for children in Victorian Quorn was very different to today. Throughout most of this period there was a weekly charge for attending school, which was not abolished until 1891. In addition many of the children had to work in local factories and were only able to go to school on a half-time basis. Quorn school log books reveal constant battles with factory managers, who needed to be reminded of their obligation to release children for either mornings or afternoons. It was not until 1880 that full time attendance up to age ten became compulsory.

1 The old school house, demolished in the early 1900s.

2 Quorn National School in 1893: Back row (left to right): Ernest Payne, Alf Hickling, Walter Thompson, Sam Hallet, Gertie Burton, Rhoda Hickling, Florrie Allen, Kate Debham.

Second row: Titus Hayes, John Bird, Albert Goodman, John Thomas Herbert, Phillip Barnett, Sarah Flanders, Georgina Adams, Addie Dalby, Charlotte Bradley.

Third row: Mr Adams (headmaster, known as Gaffer Adams), Susanah Barnett, Nelly Kirk, Louie Swinfield, Maria Haines, Ethel Butlin, Maggie Squires, Annie Pagett, Connie Burton, Sarah Payne, Jack Stevenson.

Fourth row: Fanny Stevenson, Rose Allen, Beatie Bradley, Ethel Adams, Agnes Moore, Winnie Flanders, Olive Flanders, Harry Holmes. Front row: Tom Holmes, Cecil Holmes, George Stevenson, Tom Payne, Alpheus Herbert, Percy Moore, Joe Dalby, Ernest Wykes, John Payne, Herbert Wykes.

3 Quorn Primary School Teachers, mid 1950s:

Left to right: Miss Margaret Bailey, Mrs Ivy Wesley, Don Evans, Mrs Edna Holmes, Jack Briers (Head), Harry Cook, Mrs F Green, Miss Lena Sturman. Mr Briers was the headmaster from 1954 to 1971.

4 In 1973 Quorn St Bartholomew’s Primary School moved to Willowcroft, on the other side of Quorn. The Old School building was used for a playgroup, a dance school and an exam venue, before being bought by Quorn Parish Council in 2009.

The picture above is Mrs Hopper’s class in June 1973, just before the move to Willowcroft. Top Row, left to right: Jayne Turner, Kevin McEnery, Simon Tyler, Michael Thresh, Christopher Hollings, Simon Dexter (?), Elizabeth Bird.

Second Row, left to right: Timothy Allen, Sally ?, Paula Brown, Jonathan Brookes, Joanne Inglesant, Hayden Smith, Caroline Spurr, Deborah Shepherd.

Third row, left to right: Leon Harvey, ?, Steven Hall, Richard Sharp, Mrs (Vyvian) Hopper, John Kirk, Carole Fitzgerald, Janine Gartshore, ? Bottom row, left to right: Juliet Whitworth, ?, Susan Molyneux, Alan Southwort, Sharon Reeves, Karen Stock, Stuart Coulsell (?).