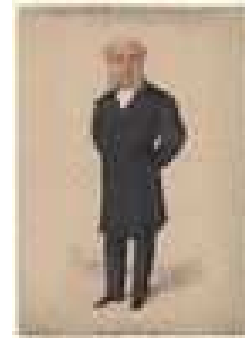




Sir Charles Reed

School Opening



Sir Thomas White

On 10th January 1876 the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Thomas White¹, attended by his mace and sword bearers, swept into the newly constructed Pooles Park School through crowds of well-wisher gathered at the gate and took his chair in the nursery class room along with a number of other London and local dignitaries. He made a speech that concluded with a deprecation of ‘sectarian differences’ and he exhorted all parents, ‘at whatever pecuniary sacrifice, to send their children to the school’. When the cheering for his speech had died down he handed over the keys of the school to the managers (school governors).

Various dignitaries made speeches including Sir Charles Reed² and two of the local vicars. Judging by the defensive tone of many of the speeches, the London School Board had been coming under attack.

Below are some of the attacks and the speaker’s retorts³

Ratepayers were objecting to the extra cost of providing a universal education.	They would most certainly gain in the end, by the reduction in cost of prisons and paupers.
Extra schools were unnecessary	The population was expanding rapidly
Children in Board schools were neglected in the respect of moral and religious teaching..	The Rev Chambers and the Rev Wilks were managers of the school. The Board schools have ‘their books, their school songs, and prayers ... as sound in their morality as any in the Kingdom. They had the bible ....what more did they want?
The Board carried out a persecution of the poor in order to drive them into their schools	Whilst one accepts compulsion as a principal with the greatest reluctance it is a safeguard against ‘those parents that neglected their duties’
The new schools did not ‘reach the gutter children’	Show me (the speaker) a neglected gutter child and I will undertake to have that child ‘in a school before a week had gone over its head’.
The Voluntary schools maintained that the new Board teachers had no religion	The voluntary schools had only themselves to blame if that were the case – because they were the ones that had taught them.

¹ Sir Thomas White (1818-1883), Lord Mayor of London. Picture by ‘Pet’ chromolithograph, published 1877.

² Sir Charles Reed (1819 -81) Chairman of the London School Board went on to become Hackney’s first MP and run a successful commercial type founding business in London.

³ As reported in the Islington Gazette 11th Jan 1876.

The Old School

Pictures taken in 1937



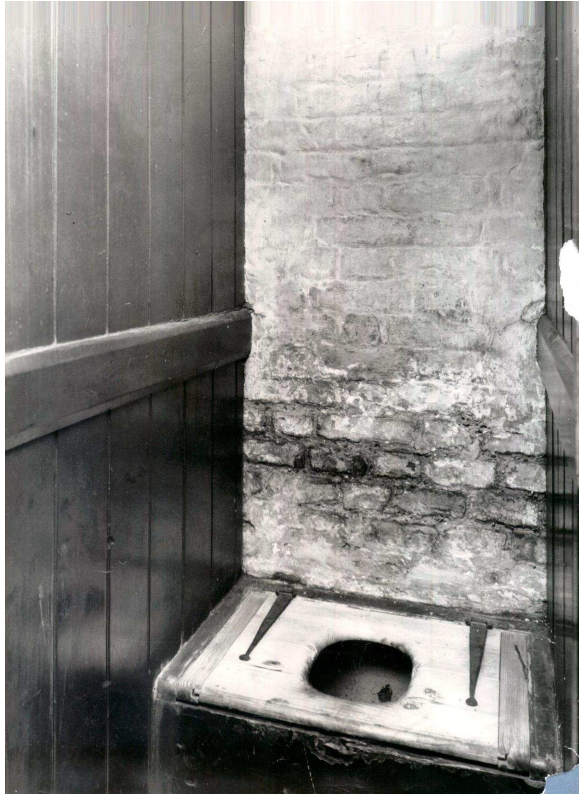
Upstairs class room



Downstairs class room or hall. Is that the piano that was bought in 1902?



MT writes: At first I assumed this was a cellar, until someone pointed out that there was a lot of light. I wonder if this is a view of the school taken from underneath one of the four classrooms that were part of the 1906 extension. These classrooms were built over the playground. One ex pupil remembers playing 'underneath the arches'.



Toilet



First floor corridor?



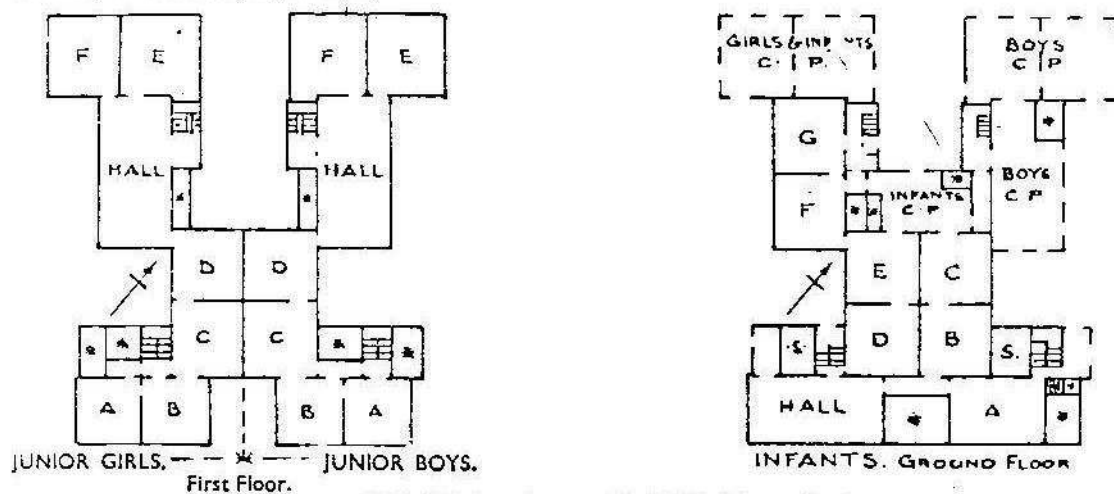
Old Road Sign. Currently in the site manager Mr. Paul Hammick's office.



Photo taken in old school, (in the same spot as the photo above?) 1938ish. John Kelly writes: "There's me, John Kelly, looking bored on the horse. Also in the photo is John Baker Charlie Chaston, John Bartlet, Terry Townsend, Jackie Pryke, June Lane, Connie Edgar, Charlie Alger, Jean Penny, Jimmy Murphy. I recognise them all, but cannot recall all their names. About a year later, the war came, we were evacuated, and the school was rebuilt".

The 1906 school plan.

POOLES PARK, Islington, N. 10.1.76. (Remodelled, 1906.) [Proposal approved to include School for catering in 1930-35 programme.]



H.T. (all departments) S. (J.G.), Mezzanines.									
Junior Boys	...	A 40, B 40, C 40, D 40, E 40, F 40	...	...	...	...	...	...	= 240
Junior Girls	...	A 40, B 40, C 40, D 40, E 40, F 40	...	...	...	...	...	...	= 240
Infants	...	A 48, B 48, C 48, D 48, E 48, F 46, G 46	...	...	...	...	...	...	= 332
Total									= 812

Pooles Park was, until recently always thought of as 3 schools. Each school had different accommodation, heads, teachers, curricula and playgrounds. Although it is difficult to determine from any of the old photos, there were, most likely, three different gates as well – each with Infants, Boys and Girls set in stone above the gate. This was certainly the case with other schools of this period and it is still possible to see these entrances in many of London's Victorian schools.

The plan above shows the ground plan of the old school building. It was originally at least two rooms smaller than this on both floors because, as is well documented, within a week of the school opening, demand for places was far outstripping supply. .

A quick time-line of the building, the site and its environs:

Before 1830	Before Pooles Park existed, when Stroud Green was still a 7-house hamlet, the land on which the school was built was fields.	One such field, Six Acre Field gave its name to the estate that, in the 1970's, was built to the south of the school.
1830		Seven Sisters Road opened
1860	Campbell Rd being built	
1866		St. Anne's Church school was already opened in Durham Road
1869	By now, Fonthill Rd, Moray Rd, Pooles Park (the street) Durham Road and a little bit of Lennox Rd (not our bit – the other bit by Stroud Green Rd) were opened	
1870		Education Act. New St. Anne's Church, Pooles Park opens.
1874	The London School Board bought a piece of land from Mr. Joseph Wagstaff for the cost of £2,500 (plus £86 costs).	

1875	Work on school – a two storey ‘dutch-style’ building - commenced by Mr. G. S. Pritchard and his firm. Infants Ground Floor Junior Girls First Floor Junior Boys First Floor Cost: £7,921.	
	School kitted out with furniture (£464) and books (£192)	
1876	School Opened by the Lord Mayor of London - with room for 716 children - Boys, Girls, Infants. Within two weeks was found to be too small.	
1877	Extra ground purchased from Mr. Wagstaff and Mr. Channing for school expansion. Mr. Channing’s descendants attended Pooles Park at least until 1973.	
	School extended (two new rooms on each floor), again by Mr. Pritchard, to accommodate 1,016 pupils. Cost:£4,868	
1878	Newly extended school reopens.	
1889		London County Council LCC created
1898		St. Anne’s Church School closes
1904		Responsibility for education in London was transferred to the LCC
1906	School extended once again. As per the ground plan above, the capacity was increased by making 2 classrooms in both the girls’ and boys’ schools into halls and building two new classrooms onto the back of the building. A pleasing consequence of these extensions was that because the new classrooms were built on stilts a covered playground was created below.	
1931	Pooles Park (and Grafton Rd) became a ‘Junior School’. The school henceforth had children only up to the age of 11 – thus 88 girls from the girls’ dept were transferred to Upper Hornsey Road Senior Girls School. Pooles Park (and Grafton Rd) were receiving infants from their own infant’s dept and others from the Upper Hornsey Rd infant’s dept.	
1938	All school buildings demolished (by J Ashton and Sons), for £88. New three-storey school built on same site	
	Building work commences on new schools: on three storey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants Ground Floor • Junior Girls First Floor • Junior Boys Second Floor 	
1939	Building unfinished	
1946	Reopened as primary school for junior boys, girls and infants.	
1949	Additions to building	
1953-7		Campbell/Whadcote Rd

		demolished
1959	Reorganised for Junior Mixed and Infants.	
1960s	Half pupils of Cypriot origin.	
1965		LCC abolished. School Board areas pass Inner London Education Authority (ILEA), a committee of the GLC
1970	Additions to building	
1982	210 (Junior mixed) pupils, 161 (Infant) pupils	
1990		ILEA abolished. Islington Borough Council becomes an education authority.
2010	New Kitchen built on ground floor	

What schooling was there before Pooles Park?

With the area around Pooles Park only being heavily developed from 1860 onwards, there had not been much demand for schooling in the area. With the influx of new people into the area, with the new housing being built there was a sudden demand for all the services that go with such population explosions. In 1876, when Pooles Park first opened, there were already a some schools open and an even bigger number about to open.

Prior to the Education Act of 1870, formal education in England and Wales was largely restricted to children whose parents could afford sending them to private fee-paying schools. However, a variety of establishments existed which provided basic education for children from poorer families.

Throughout Islington, at the census of 1851, there were 26 public day schools, with 5, 716 scholars; 209 private day schools, with 4, 681 s.; and 31 Sunday schools, with 7, 136 s. Eight of the public schools were national; 6 others were connected with the Church of England; 5 were British; 1 was Roman Catholic; 4 were non-sectarian ragged schools; 1 was an orphan school; and 1 was a prison school.

St. Anne's School, Pooles Park

The closest school to our own was St. Anne's National School. It was created by the church of St. Anne and originally situated in the road named Pooles Park where the church had previously been. It was a Church of England school that started 6 years before Pooles Park School in 1876.

The vicar of St. Anne's Rev W. H. Chambers attended the opening of Pooles Park School.. In the Islington Gazette of 11th Jan 1876 he is reported, (and cheered), for saying this:

[He] claimed to have done something for the education of that district by the establishment of his church school, but not having the rate payers pockets to go to, and not wishing to have that privilege – for he believed in that education of his congregation which appeals for voluntary aid stimulated - he had not been able to cope with the needs of the locality, and he had now to report that the schools were full, and hundreds of children were outside. He had done as much as could and would have like to do more, but he said, never the less, "Welcome to the London School Board in this area and may they be successful in gathering in the children"

1870	St. Anne's School opened in Durham Rd, with National Society grant, in the former St. Anne's iron church which by now was being rebuilt in Pooles Park.
1871	In 1871, still in Durham Rd, St. Anne's had a roll of 111 Boys, 248 Girls - of all ages. The evening school, held for 6 hrs. a week, had 27 Boys and 19 Girls.
1877	New St. Anne's Schools for Boys, Girls, Infants completed next to church in Pooles Park. Financed by school with 3d., 4d. subscriptions, voluntary contributions, parliamentary grants. Roll at this time was 148 Boys, 139 Girls, 120 Infants.
1893	Accommodation for 353, (a.a. 328).
1898	Accommodation for 117 Boys, 124 Girls.
1898	School closed

National Schools

Members of the Church of England, seeing the success of Joseph Lancaster's British Schools, decided to set up a similar system for themselves with teaching centred on the Church Liturgy and Catechism. The National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church was formed in 1811. They invited Dr Andrew Bell, another proponent (and perhaps originator) of the monitorial system (whereby older children taught younger ones under the supervision of paid staff), to organise the creation of the National Schools system, which by 1851 numbered 17,000 schools.

The intention of the National Society was to provide a national system of a school in every parish, run by a trained teacher. Sites were mainly given by local benefactors, under the 1841 School Sites Act, with the vicar and churchwardens as trustees. Trust deeds usually refer to education 'for the poor of the parish'.

The two main church providers of schools were the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church. In the nineteenth century the Free Churches decided to support the development of Board schools, and apart from a small number of Methodist primary schools, this policy has continued. The Roman Catholic Church's policy has been to provide Catholic schools for Catholic children taught by Catholic teachers trained in Catholic colleges.

Charity Schools

Charity schools, supported by public subscription, date back to at least the 17th century. A number were opened in the late 1600s in London, and the early eighteenth century, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) was active in their promotion. In York, the SPCK, in association with the archbishop, dean and chapter, and local corporation, established two schools in 1705: a Blue Coat school for 40 boys, and a Grey Coat school for 20 girls. The children were to be orphans or dependents of freemen with large families.

In 1739 in London, Captain Thomas Coram established a foundling hospital and school at Bloomsbury Fields for the "education and maintenance of exposed and deserted young children" which continued in operation until the 1920s.

Foundling Hospital, Coram Fields, Bloomsbury.

Dame Schools

Dame schools⁴ were run by women of often little or no qualification who charged 3d or 4d per pupil a week and taught skills such as reading and writing to a rudimentary level. Dame schools were often held in corners of kitchens or in insanitary cellars while the "teacher" continued with other household work - they often served more as a child-care service than as a school.

Sunday Schools

Although Sunday schools may date back as far as the 16th century, the Sunday schools movement is often associated with Robert Raikes, a newspaper publisher, who popularized the idea. His interest led to the opening of a church-based Sunday school in Gloucester in 1780. With support from the Bishops of Chester and Salisbury, a London Society for the Establishment of Sunday Schools was established in 1785. By 1787, it was reckoned that there were 250,000 Sunday school pupils. By 1831, this had risen in England to over 1.25 million and by the mid nineteenth century around two-thirds of all working-class children aged between 5 and 15 were attending Sunday school.

Ragged schools

The name given to the 19th century charity schools which provided education and, in most cases, food, clothing, and lodging for destitute children. They received no government support.

The movement had its beginning in the efforts of John Pounds (d. 1839), a disabled shoemaker of Portsmouth. They were started in Scotland in 1841 when the Aberdeen Ragged School opened in 1843. From this moment on the movement spread.

In London in 1844 the "Ragged School Union" was established under the chairmanship of 7th Earl of Shaftesbury to bring together the various ragged schools that existed in London. He was president for 39 years, in which time an estimated 300,000 destitute children received education. At the zenith of the movement, there were 192 Schools, with an average attendance of 20,000 pupils.

Charles Dickens' visit to the Field Lane Ragged School in Clerkenwell in 1843 inspired him to write *A Christmas Carol*. Appalled by what he saw, he initially intended to write a pamphlet on the plight of poor children, but realised a story would have more impact.

The Ragged Schools engaged in a wide variety of social welfare activities, such as running Penny Banks, Clothing Clubs, Bands of Hope, and Soup Kitchens. However, despite their alternate name of Industrial Feeder Schools, only three Ragged Schools gave trade instruction, the only form of education for which Government grants were available. With the advent of the board schools as a consequence of the 1870 Education Act, the curricula which did qualify for such grants and the number of pupils at Ragged Schools gradually declined.

In Islington, Highbury Fields School began life in 1846 as the Holloway Free and Ragged School, making it the oldest maintained school in London.

British Schools

British Schools were introduced in 1810 by a non-denominational organization called the British and Foreign Schools Society to promulgate the work of the Quaker teacher Joseph Lancaster. The schools made use of "monitorial" system where older children taught younger ones under the supervision of paid staff. By 1851, around 1500 had been set up.

The State Education System

⁴ Dame Alice Owen's School, now in Bedford but founded in Islington, was originally a Dame school. Dame Alice set up the school in 1613 'for 40 poor boys of Islington.

The present state education system in England and Wales has its roots in the Elementary Education Act of 1870 which introduced the principle of compulsory elementary education. This was through two main categories of school:

- Voluntary church schools
- Non-denominational Board schools operated by a system of 2,500 School Boards.

The Boards were elected by local ratepayers, and were innovative in that women were allowed to vote and stand for election. Boards had the power to levy a rate for setting up and running schools where voluntary provision was inadequate. The first Board Schools opened in the early 1870's.

The London School Board



The London School Board (LSB) was formed in 1870. Pooles Park was a 'Board' school and was under the jurisdiction of the Finsbury Division of the LSB.

Under the Elementary Education Act of 1871 the board inspected all elementary schools offering education for 9d. a week or less: Islington had 35 public schools held under trusts, including National, British, and other church schools, 20 schools run by private committees, mainly the ragged and mission schools, and 139 adventure schools, being mainly small dame schools. All but three of the public schools and over half the privately managed schools were found efficient. Many of the adventure schools refused inspection and others had closed when the inspectors called; of the rest only two were efficient, two others were efficient in instruction but not premises, and another might be made efficient. Most of those not recognized appalled the inspectors. In all, 47 schools for working-class children could be recognized, giving places for 7,675 boys and 6,165 girls of all ages. Night schools were of value for children who worked during the day and had not received basic instruction when younger. In 1871 sixteen schools, including three adventure schools, provided evening classes for 922 boys and 467 girls, aged 9 and up. The schools were usually held for six or seven months in the winter, although two were open all year, and their hours varied from three to ten a week. (fn. 79)

By early 1875 the board had completed four new schools in Islington, with three more under way. When the L.C.C. took over responsibility for elementary education in 1904, the board had 38 local schools with c. 43,000 places, including schools transferred to the board. (fn. 81) In 1906 many voluntary schools had to reduce their intake or make other improvements, and some, having survived competition from board schools, were obliged to close or transfer to the L.C.C. for financial reasons.

Three schools, Montem Street, Upper Hornsey Road, and Duncombe Road, had about a third of their pupils in higher grade classes by 1900, and Montem Street's upper boys formed a science school. In 1903 Islington had nine secondary and higher educational establishments administered by the Board

of Education, including evening classes at two board schools. In 1904 the first higher grade school was opened by the L.C.C. at Barnsbury Park, followed by Camden secondary school in 1907. In 1908 four private secondary schools were recognized as efficient, of which Highbury Hill High school was taken over by the L.C.C. in 1912. Higher grade classes in elementary schools were gradually replaced by separate central schools.

From 1927 most Islington council schools were reorganized into senior and junior schools, though a few all-age schools, many of them denominational, remained to be adapted after the Second World War. The London school plan, drawn up between 1944 and 1947, laid down a complete scheme of primary and comprehensive secondary education but included several aided grammar schools which remained outside the reorganization.

By 1955 Islington had:

- 36 council primary schools, some divided into separate junior and infants' sections
- 12 voluntary aided primaries
- 16 county secondary schools
- 5 voluntary aided secondaries

Some single-sex secondary schools were amalgamated into mixed schools in 1957-9; former grammar or high schools remained single-sex but had become comprehensive by 1982, again taking pupils from other secondary schools.

In 1980 there were:

- 26 county primaries
- 13 voluntary aided primaries (6 of them Roman Catholic and 7 Anglican)
- 8 county secondary schools (5 single sex)
- 3 voluntary aided Roman Catholic secondary schools (all single-sex)

Standards of education

In areas served by school boards which had implemented by-laws requiring attendance, compulsory attendance until the thirteenth birthday was exempted if a child (being over ten) had been certified by the inspector as satisfying the required standard for that board. The standards required varied between 4th Standard (example: Birmingham) and 6th Standard (example: Bolton).

The following are the six Standards of Education contained in the Revised code of Regulations, 1872

STANDARD I	
Reading	One of the narratives next in order after monosyllables in an elementary reading book used in the school.
Writing	Copy in manuscript character a line of print, and write from dictation a few common words.
Arithmetic	Simple addition and subtraction of numbers of not more than four figures, and the multiplication table to multiplication by six.
STANDARD II	
Reading	A short paragraph from an elementary reading book.
Writing	A sentence from the same book, slowly read once, and then dictated in single words.
Arithmetic	The multiplication table, and any simple rule as far as short division (inclusive).
STANDARD III	
Reading	A short paragraph from a more advanced reading book.
Writing	A sentence slowly dictated once by a few words at a time, from the same book.
Arithmetic	Long division and compound rules (money).
STANDARD IV	

Reading	A few lines of poetry or prose, at the choice of the inspector.
Writing	A sentence slowly dictated once, by a few words at a time, from a reading book, such as is used in the first class of the school.
Arithmetic	Compound rules (common weights and measures).
STANDARD V	
Reading	A short ordinary paragraph in a newspaper, or other modern narrative.
Writing	Another short ordinary paragraph in a newspaper, or other modern narrative, slowly dictated once by a few words at a time.
Arithmetic	Practice and bills of parcels.
STANDARD VI	
Reading	To read with fluency and expression.
Writing	A short theme or letter, or an easy paraphrase.
Arithmetic	Proportion and fractions (vulgar and decimal).

The end of the London Schools Board

Although the school boards generally had been largely successful in increasing the number of children attending school in Britain, they were perceived as bureaucratic and expensive. As a response to this, the boards were abolished by the Education Act of 1902, which replaced them with Local education Authorities.

In London, the London County Council had been created in 1889 in 1904 the responsibility for education in London was transferred to the LCC. The LCC itself was abolished in 1965, with education for the former School Board area passing to the Inner London Education Authority, a committee of the Greater London Council. The ILEA was abolished in 1990, with the inner London borough councils becoming education authorities.