



## Education

In 1877 a new school was built in Avening Street. Gorse Hill Infant and Junior School still occupy this site today and was opened in September 1878 by the Stratton St. Margaret School Board to accommodate 450 boys, girls, and infants. (Board Clerk to make necessary arrangement for opening of Gorse Hill school, second week in September. [Swindon Advertiser 05-08-1878.](#))

1882 The infants' department had a hall and 8 classrooms built for it in.

1883 The first church school opened in an old iron church, which was located off Cricklade Road, opposite what is now known as Tydeman Street. Twenty pupils attended the school, but continued expansion of the area meant that the number of pupils quickly rose.

Early Head teacher & Headmistress were a Mr & Mrs Langley who moved to jobs in Rettendon, Essex in 1889 [Essex County Chronicle 22-02-1889.](#)

1890, when Gorse Hill came within the Swindon boundary, the school was taken over by the Swindon School Board. The following year a new boys' and girls' department was opened. The accommodation in the infants' school was considered suitable for 573 children, but in 1906 there were 735 on the register, and the average attendance for the whole school was 1,258.

1896 School board meeting reported the following Exam results, Boys School all subjects in good order, Girls School in nice order, girls learning needlework, elementary subjects, and Domestic Economy. Infants school very good. [Swindon Advertiser 11-01-1896.](#)

1901 School Board Nomination, William James POLLARD of 33b Cricklade Road, insurance agent by George William Ockwell of Swindon. [Swindon Advertiser 25-10-1901.](#)

1910 the school was still overcrowded in spite of the building of the Ferndale Road school nearby, and it was not until this school was enlarged after the First World War that attendance figures at Gorse Hill began to adjust themselves to the accommodation available.

Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Lewington and Mrs. Corsely from Board School and Messrs. A. Lewis, F. Wake, and W. H. Mayall from Gorse Hill Men's School, attended the annual meeting and lectures of the Bath and Wilts Adult School Union. *The Bath Chronicle 25-01-1913.*

1935 – T H Smallcroft was head.

1944 – 1959 Miss Murrish was the junior head; Miss Sands was infants head until 1953, when Miss Bathe became head of the infants,

1946 the older children were removed from the school, leaving separate infants' and junior schools at Gorse Hill. For some years before schools were opened at Penhill, children from that estate were taken by bus to Gorse Hill. Even after the Penhill schools were opened, classrooms in the Gorse Hill Junior School had to be used to relieve overcrowding in the new schools.

1957 headmistress Miss Murrish

In 1964 there were 202 children on the roll.

1968 – Mrs Hexel infants head.

1997 – 1999 Mr Elliot, Headmaster

Queen opened the new nursery on 07-11-1997.