

Education in Stratton

The local school board was formed February 12, 1876 and was dissolved by the Education Act of 1902. The original Upper & Lower Stratton schools were built at cost of £11 per head.



National School (mixed) Swindon Road, Lower Stratton built 1868 by local voluntary labour for 240 children, Schoolmaster in 1890 Mr Coltrip. Split into 2 schools mixed & infants by 1915, was demolished June 1976, a couple of houses stand in its place.

1st School in Green Road opened Jan 1872, with Head Mistress Miss Sarah Ann Brooke aged 25 with her assistant Mary Ann Greenway who was 14.



Stratton Board School, Infants was founded 10th June 1895, on 28th March 1906 it became Lower Stratton Infants Council School. In 1938 the school was given electric lighting and piped heating. The original bell turret was removed in 1939. During the war the school shared with evacuees from Barking, London. In 1945 the school became Lower Stratton County Infants and in 1963 when the juniors had moved to the new school it became Grange Infants School.



Gorse Hill - The first 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. In 1877 a new school was built in Avening Street, Gorse Hill, then a titling of Stratton St. Margaret, was opened in 1878 by the Stratton St. Margaret School Board to accommodate 450 boys, girls, and infants. The infants' department had a hall and 8 classrooms built for it in 1882. In 1890, when Gorse Hill came within the Swindon boundary, the school was taken over by the Swindon School Board – (From: 'Swindon: Education and charities', *A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 9 (1970)*, pp. 159-168.)



Board School (girls & infants) Upper Stratton built 1883 for 537 children, girls only in 1915. In April 1896 the school was closed for 3 weeks due to an outbreak of Measles.

Board School (boys) Upper Stratton built 1892 for 240 children



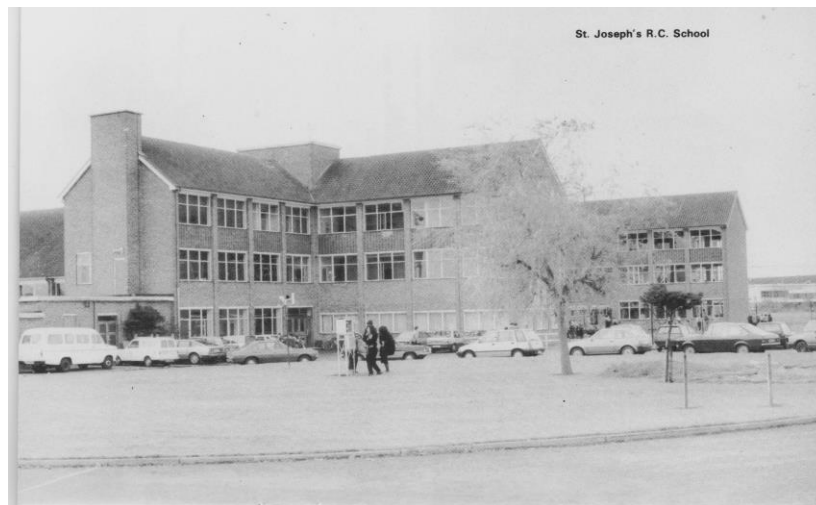
Grange Junior School (450 pupils) was built during 1961 and opened in June 1962 by Sir Noel Arkell. The original houses at the school were named after 'Grange' Class GWR locomotives Arlington (team colour red), Eastbury (green), Calcott (blue) and Kingsland (yellow). Headteacher in 1970 P A A Pitchener. The building was completely rebuilt after a storm on Thursday 25th January 1990, in which an 11-year-old girl died and two 11-year-old boys were treated for minor injuries when the roof caved in, the headmaster at this time was Malcolm Emery.



St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Primary School (196 pupils), Davenwood, Upper Stratton. In 1996 Mrs Margaret Shewry was given an award for 25 years as the school's dinner lady. The same year Headteacher John Kennedy was given an award for 25 years of teaching.



Upper Stratton Senior School, Ermin Street was opened 27 Jan 1937, by the Marquis of Bath; the estimated cost was approximately £19,200, including £978 for furniture and equipment. It provided accommodation for 360 children¹. Its first Head Boy in 1939 was Reginald Ireland. and in mid 1960's had become Kingsdown Secondary School. It has been extended several times 1945 four extra classrooms, a canteen was added in 1950's later to become a Youth centre, 1960's a three storey extension and gym were added, 1970's 11 classrooms and 2 science labs added. In 1970 Kingsdown High School headmaster was Mr I M P Millar. In 1998 a 2 storey 7 classroom block was added across front of school, 2005 a new Learning block and a D+T block was added. It became an Academy on 31 July 2011 (1250 pupils). The school has a long history of sporting success as [this](#) extract for 2001 Evening Advertiser shows and yes they did win as can be seen [here](#).



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School, Nythe, this was moved out of the parish and rebuilt in Drakes Way, the original site is now the "Oakley Park" housing Estate.

¹ Reply by Mr. Lindsay, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education to a question from Flight Lieut Wavell Wakefield on the cost of the new school in a Commons Debate 01/12/1938.



Headlands Grammar School, Cricklade Road, c.1943. This was one of the 4 Swindon Grammar schools, originally called Swindon College School. It became a comprehensive for ages 14-19 in 1964, known as 'The Headlands School', then becoming an 11-16 school and finally closed 11 December 2009, being demolished in December 2009. Part of the site is used by Esprit Gymnastics, the playing fields are designated for future housing development. Headmaster in 1970 Mr T S Magson.



Penhill Primary School, Cricklade Road (This site was nicknamed 'Grange Hill' while the Grange Junior school pupils were rehoused here after the 1990 storm damage). In 1970 as Penhill High the headmaster was Mr C G Vivash. This now St. Lukes school, Cricklade Road and is a State special school for boys and girls aged from 11 to 16.



Colebrook Junior School, Towcester Road
Headmaster in 1970 Mr Turner.



Colebrook Infants School, Towcester Road opened September 1975. Became an Academy from November 2011. Awarded Good report by OFSTED Jan 2014.

Ruskin Junior School (374 pupils), Wordsworth Drive, Upper Stratton.

Originally in St Phillips Rd in 1970 the headmaster was Mrs E Praed.

Extract from Evening Advertiser 9-11-2000 - Parents and residents welcomed a chance to have their say on proposals to spend £500,000 improving a school in Upper Stratton. At an informal exhibition more than 30 visitors viewed plans to build a new resource area and classrooms at Ruskin Junior School. The proposals involve building three permanent classrooms to replace mobile accommodation and creating a new library with space stores for equipment. Simon Morris of the council's Technical Service Group attended Monday afternoon's viewing to answer questions from the public. He said: "Everybody supported the proposals, there wasn't any objections. "Some residents were worried about the extension obstructing their views but it is a very compact project. Others had expressed concerns over traffic." He explained the plans will not increase the size of the school. "If the work gets the go-ahead building will start by June 2001. It should be completed by March 2002. The plans went on show to the public after the council said it wanted to know what people thought before a detailed planning application is submitted. People were just glad that the children are to be moved out of the worst of the mobile accommodation and into permanent buildings."

Beechcroft Infant School (253 pupils), Beechcroft Road, ex. Upper Stratton Boys Board School. Headteacher in 1970 Miss M Bond

Stratton Education Centre (96 pupils), St Phillips Road, ex. Upper Stratton Girls Board school.

Nythe Junior & Primary School, Nyland Road. Headteacher 1970 Mr P Jinks.

Private Education

In 1885 the local paper reports local exam results of private teacher's pupils – Miss Mary Fernie passed the Cambridge Local Exam & her sister Miss Olive Fernie passed the College of Preceptors Exam, both daughters of James Fernie Esq.