

From 'The Dingle County Primary School' to 'Dingle Community Primary School'

(Why the school name was changed)

To fully understand why the school name was changed we have looked back at educational provision since the 19th century.

Before 1870

Before 1870, the involvement of the government in educational provision principally consisted of making annual grants to support 'voluntary schools' run by societies, such as the '*National Society for Promoting Religious Education*' and the '*British and Foreign School Society*'.

The Elementary Education Act 1870

The Act of Parliament drafted by William Forster in 1870 is commonly known as 'Forster's Education Act', seen as the beginning of a national system of education. Through this Act, the Liberal Party government imposed stricter standards on schools and provided for the setting up of locally elected school boards in boroughs and parishes throughout England and Wales. These boards were given the power to set up elementary board schools where the existing provision of voluntary schools was insufficient. Parents of children attending board schools were required to pay fees, except for the poorest families, whose children's fees were paid by the board. The Act made attendance at school compulsory for children between the ages of 5 and 10, except for those who worked, or lived too far from a school. The requirement to pay fees ended in 1891.

The Education Act 1902

By 1902 there were around 14,000 church schools, called "voluntary schools", mostly run by the Church of England, with some Catholic schools. Although these schools educated about a third of all schoolchildren they were poorly funded and did not receive funding from local taxes (general rates). At this time there were over 2,500 school boards set up under the Elementary Education Act 1870. Following the Conservative government's Education Act 1902 (commonly known as Balfour's Education Act), the school boards were abolished and their duties passed to local borough or county councils, as local education authorities (L.E.A.s). 328 L.E.A.s were established, which set local rates to raise funds, paid teachers, ensured teachers were properly qualified and provided necessary books and equipment. L.E.A.s paid the teachers in the church schools, with the churches providing and maintaining school buildings.

The Dingle County Primary School

The building of the school was funded by Staffordshire County Council Education Committee, as the L.E.A. at the time. The school was a 'County' school, which is why the word was included in the name of the school when it opened in 1965. The use of 'Dingle' in the school name refers to the wooded area, or dell, adjacent to the site.

Dingle Middle School and Dingle First School

In 1964 the Labour Party government began planning a number of changes to the education system. These included proposals to raise the school leaving age to 16, which was finally introduced in 1973. In order to accommodate pupils who were to remain at secondary school for an additional year, the age at which pupils could remain in primary school education had been raised from 11 to 12. The need for more space in primary schools resulted in the introduction of first and middle schools, with Dingle First School opening in 1974. Mobile classrooms had already been introduced on the school site to accommodate increased pupil numbers by 1972 and in March of that year plans were announced regarding the building of a new Infants' School on the site. With the implementation of the Dudley Secondary School Reorganisation the school became 'Dingle Middle School'. Although due to open on 5th September 1974, construction of 'Dingle First School' was not completed in time and the two schools shared accommodation until the First School building finally 'opened on 28th October 1974. The two schools were then completely separate.

The Dingle Primary School

In February 1981 it was revealed that in Dudley the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary school was likely to revert to taking place at the age of 11, although this change did not occur until September 1991. It was observed in 1981 that the proposed change would mean the amalgamation of Dingle Middle School and Dingle First School. Meetings took place on 23rd May 1984 to provide information about the proposed amalgamation of the two schools, leading to the closure of Dingle First School on 19th December 1984, although both buildings continued to be used until July 1985, with all pupils accommodated in the former Middle School building from September 1985. The former First School building eventually became a Community Centre. The merged schools became known as '*The Dingle Primary School*' from 1st January 1985.

Dingle Community Primary School

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 was passed by the Labour Party government and provided that all County schools would be renamed Community Schools. Schools were required to consider renaming before a new Instrument of Governance was prepared. At a meeting on 2nd March 1999 the school Governing Body resolved to change the name from '*The Dingle Primary School*' to '*Dingle Community Primary School*'.