



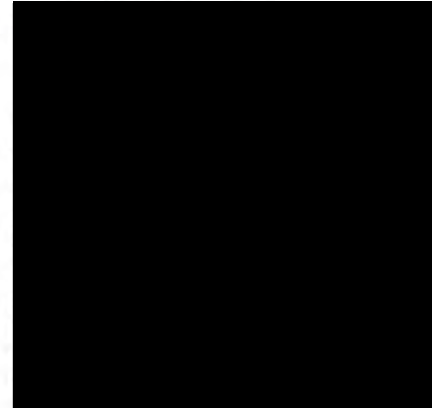
# Department of Education and Children

**Isle of Man  
Government**

*Rheynn Ynsee as Paitchyn*

*Reiltys Ellan Vannin*

10<sup>th</sup> July 2017



## **Re: Freedom of Information Request – Reference Number IM91608I**

### **Details of Request**

*In relation to the recent suggested closure / transfer of St. Thomas' Primary School in Douglas I respectfully request copies of written policy decisions, feasibility studies, consultations and referenced material which has been used to base the decision to transfer St. Thomas' to a new site.*

### **Department Response**

We are pleased to provide you with documentation held by the Department as requested in your Freedom of Information request, reference number IM91608I.

- Condition Survey Report for asset management purposes at St Thomas School dated March 2004
- Summary assessment form for St Thomas' Church of England School dated September 2004
- Boundary Survey dated March 2010.
- Covering email in relation to the above documents
- An extract from the Department's Accommodation Strategy Report dated 12 July 2016
- Various extracts from relevant Department minutes
- Various extracts from relevant Education Council minutes
- Merger Working Party Agenda dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Paper in respect of Department and Headteacher queries and issues for the proposed co-location of St Thomas' School
- Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017, to Professor Barr, sent on behalf of Revd James McGowan
- Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017, sent to parents/carers of pupils attending St Thomas' School and Scoill Vallajeelt from Director of Education and Children informing them of meetings to be held at both schools to discuss the co-location including a paper

explaining the purpose of the meeting and a paper copy of the Power Point presentation delivered

- Press release dated Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- Copy of dialogue given by Minister to Manx Radio

The decision for the co-location of the two schools was made in order to improve the educational experience of pupils. The pupils at St Thomas' currently have their main playground on top of a shop, have no suitable facilities for the PE curriculum and have only two permanent classrooms on separate floors of an old Victorian building. Scoill Vallajeelt, on the other hand, has a separate sports hall, dining room and assembly hall. It has a large field, open, flexible classrooms and, most significantly has an expected pupil roll for this September of 192, when its capacity is for 350.

Developing Scoill Vallajeelt into a 'campus', acting as home to two separate schools with distinct identities - allows a number of other potential advantages. The two schools can benefit from working together strategically and operationally on the occasions when it would prove helpful, could share some resources and facilities in a way that benefits pupils at both schools and provides a model of tolerance and friendship exemplifying how a faith-based organisation can live and work alongside a secular one.

In respect of your request for information on consultations, please note that these have not been conducted publically as these were not considered necessary. No information is therefore available on consultations. There have been discussions with Diocesan representatives and the Headteachers of the two schools affected. Advisory sessions were arranged with parents of the relevant schools to advise them of the decision taken to co-locate the two schools. Copies of the presentation given to parents and speaking notes used at these meetings are attached.

Information was released regarding co-location to parents/carers, via a letter from the Director of Education, prior to a wider press release. This was in order that all members of the school communities were aware of what was being proposed simultaneously, and so that some groups were not informed in advance of others. The letter provided an outline of the plan and a rationale for it but also invited families of children at the schools to two meetings, the following week, where any questions could be addressed. At both meetings, Department officers made commitments to continue to engage with parents and carers and to provide additional information as and when it was available.

The panel for the meetings was selected from those who had been involved in discussions, about co-location, in advance of the meetings and the people who, in the view of the Department, were best placed to offer answers to any questions that might arise.

The Department does not see the co-location as in any way a 'segregation' (indeed it could be argued that housing the church school on a separate site reinforces division more than the co-location). The two schools will retain separate identities (names, uniform, policies, procedures etc) but there is certainly no 'determination to ensure the children do not mix'. One of the potential advantages of the proposal is that break times and lunch times could be joint, if this were practicable, enabling pupils

opportunities to make friends from within a larger group. Allowing a Church of England school to function on the site simply demonstrates an acknowledgment of difference and affords the opportunity for a faith-based education for their children to those parents who desire it. The Department's position is, and has been for some time, that affording such an opportunity (as it does for the Catholic community) is important in a diverse, tolerant community.

For interest, although outside the dates relevant to your FoI request, there is a book held at the Manx Museum, 'An Island that led - The History of Manx Education' Vol.2 by Hinton Bird, which has been used as a source of information:

1. Page 50 there is a quote making reference to the Lindsell report of 6 Jan 1881 saying that "He refused to count St Thomas School as the accommodation was too poor"
2. Page 59 – In April 1891 it was fee-paying at a rate of 2d
3. Page 62 – In reference to remaining C of E schools, "Only St Thomas School, itself threatened with loss of grant in 1893 unless toilet facilities were improved"
4. Page 268 – "It cost £134,000 merely to provide St Thomas School with a playground on top of a commercial development in Douglas.

If you are unhappy with this response to your Freedom of Information request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by completing a Review/Complaint form and submitting it electronically or by delivery/post to: Mr Andrew Shipley, Legal and Administration Manager, Hamilton House, Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 5EZ.

An electronic version of our Review/Complaint form can be found by going to <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/freedom-of-information/>

Your Review/Complaint request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made as soon as practicable. We will respond as soon as the review has been conducted.

## **Appeal Process**

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision on;

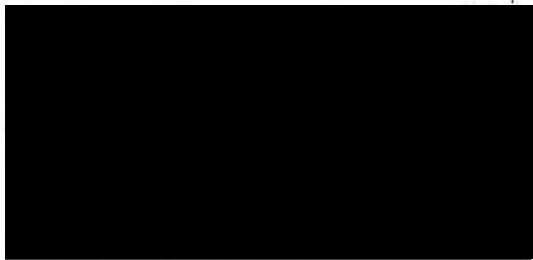
- 1 Whether we have responded to your request for information in accordance with Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act; or
- 2 Whether we are justified in refusing to give you the information requested.

In response to an application for review, the Information Commissioner may, at any time, attempt to resolve a matter by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution and will have regard to any outcome of this in making any subsequent decision.

More detailed information on your rights to review is on the Information Commissioner's website at <https://www.inforights.im/contact-us/>

Should you have any queries concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further information about Freedom of Information requests can be found at [www.gov.im/foi](http://www.gov.im/foi)





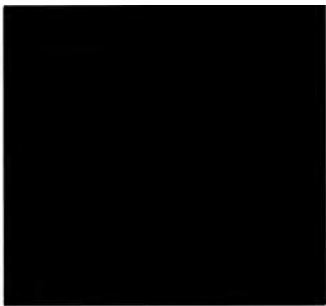
**ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Condition Survey Report  
For  
Asset Management Purposes  
At**

**ST THOMAS SCHOOL, DOUGLAS**



**Rev A March 2004**

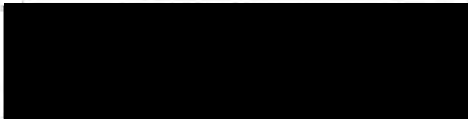




---

**CONTENTS**

	Page No
Introduction	3
Survey Summary	4
Condition & Priority Sheets	
Internal Rooms	5
External Areas	25
External Areas Walls	26
External Areas Roofs	32
Photographs	38
Layout Drawings 513-705 3000-01	39
Appendix A – Criteria for Condition Assessment	40





---

## INTRODUCTION

The survey was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2003 and updated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2004

The survey was undertaken by Douglas Bayley and updated by Mike Carine of Dalrymple Associates Ltd.

The survey was limited to the external elements of the structure of the fabric of the building and a visual non-intrusive inspection was undertaken to the interior of the building, sufficient enough to identify necessary maintenance works.

Where the structure was covered, unexposed or inaccessible, an inspection was not undertaken, and those parts cannot be reported free from defect.


All costs provided are based upon present day competitive prices, and are budget estimates only, to be seen as a likely indication of the cost of the works. VAT has not been included in any of the budget estimates.

The survey and this report is intended to assist the Department in its Asset Management Plan for a five year planning period. Works identified as being required outside this planning period have not had their costs estimated.

The basis of the assessment of the condition and priority of elements is as detailed in the Department of Education and Employment's issued document No DfEE 0-097/2000 'Asset Management Plans Section 3: Condition Assessment', with a summary being shown in Appendix A of this report.

The premises type for this school is a mixture of type 1, being classified as pre war, type 2, being classified as inter war and type 6, being classified as temporary premises.

The room areas shown on the report sheets are the gross room internal area, measured in accordance with the RICS Code of Measurement Practice, fifth edition.



---

## SURVEY SUMMARY

In general terms the school is in good condition. There are internal areas suffering from water ingress which we recommend further investigation be carried out to ascertain the cause and suitable remedial works.

Identified elements to repair are;

Priority 1	Internal £ 4,530	External nil	sub total	£ 4,530
Priority 2	Internal £ 8,325	External nil	sub total	£ 8,325
Priority 3	Internal £ 27,595	External £ 11,950	sub total	£39,545
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£52,400</b>

The Chester street car park over sails the playground adjacent to the carpark. A potential issue arises from the possibility of any of the car park structure losing its integrity. As the car park has pre cast panels it is advisable to have the owners of the car park confirm that their structure is stable.

### School Description

St Thomas' is a Victorian building extended in the 1930's. It sits between Market and Chester Streets close to the promenade in the centre of Douglas. The school is adjacent to St Thomas' Church. The school is unusual in that its playground at the rear of the building is formed as the covering to a shop unit below -owned by others. The drainage gullies from this playground exit into pipes running through this property. The school is on two floors with no inter floor disabled access available

The school has two blocks:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Block A | The original school built with two floors in 1875 It is traditionally built with a slate pitched roof                    |
| Block B | An extension built in the 1930's to the north of the existing block. It has a flat roof, which is not easily accessible. |
| Block C | A mobile classroom placed on the rear playground. Installed in 2001.   |

Disabled access is available to all the lower floors only.

Please refer to drawing Nos. 513-705 3000-01 dated June 2003, which details the room and block references.



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

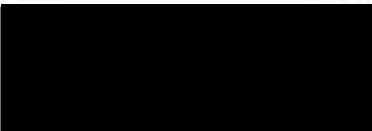
Room Area /sqm: 7

Room Description: Girls Toilet

Room Ref: T2

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	A					
WALLS	A					
FLOOR	B		£150			Repair welded joints
LIGHTING	B		£250			Fit new sealed units
WINDOWS	A					
HEATING	C		£450			Fit radiator with TRV & LST cover
VENTILATION	C	£450				
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	B				X	minor deterioration evident - cubicles
ELECTRICAL	A					
SANITARY WARE	A					
Page Totals		£450	£850	£0	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: B

Room Area /sqm: 10

Room Description: Boys Toilet

Room Ref: T1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B			£50		Refit missing / damaged tiles
WALLS	A					
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	B		£250			Replace damaged unit with new sealed unit
WINDOWS	A					
HEATING	C		£450			Fit new radiator with TRV & LST cover
VENTILATION	C	£450				Fit mechanical extract
DOORS	B				X	minor deterioration evident
FIXTURES	B		£450			Fit privacy screen
ELECTRICAL	A					
SANITARY WARE	B				X	minor deterioration evident
Page Totals		£450	£1,150	£50	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Room Area /sqm: 85

Room Description Classroom

Room Ref: GF1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B			£50		Replace damaged ceiling tiles
WALLS	C		£1,800			Damp to window reveals and penetrating damp to walls. Replaster reveals 1no. @ 2m2. Rewallpaper and paint room
FLOOR	B				X	minor deterioration evident
LIGHTING	B			£1,200		Fit high frequency units
WINDOWS	B		£400			Clean upvc windows on west elevation. Leaking windows at all levels. Seal external cills & windows
HEATING	A					
VENTILATION	C			£2,500		Fit mechanical extract and cooling unit
DOORS - External/Internal	A					
FIXTURES	B				X	Control knob missing from hob and minor deterioration evident
ELECTRICAL	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WASH HAND BASINS	B				X	minor deterioration evident
Page Totals		£0	£2,200	£3,750	N/A	

School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

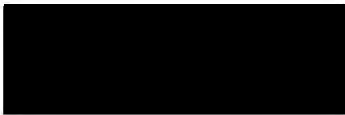
Room Area /sqm: 11

Room Description Cloaks

Room Ref: GF2

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WALLS	B			£150		Replace missing skirting
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	B			£50		Replace light / diffuser
WINDOWS	A					
HEATING	A					
VENTILATION	B		£450			Fit mechanical extract
DOORS	B		£500			Fit fire door and frame
FIXTURES	A					
ELECTRICAL	N/A					
WASH HAND BASINS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£950	£200	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

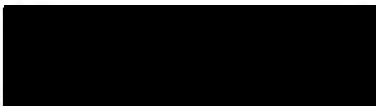
Room Area /sqm:

Room Description GF - FF Staircase

Room Ref: S1/S2

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WALLS	B			£100		Repaint damp patches to reveals 1m2
FLOOR	B				X	minor deterioration evident
LIGHTING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WINDOWS	N/A					
HEATING	B	£100				Seal around wall pipe penetrations
VENTILATION	N/A					
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	A					
ELECTRICAL	N/A					
WASH HAND BASINS	N/A					
Page Totals		£100	£0	£100	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

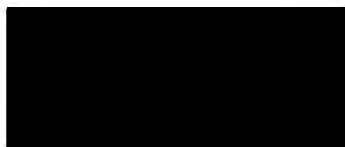
Room Area /sqm: 2

Room Description Staff Toilet

Room Ref: T3

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WALLS	B			£350		Re skim external wall and redecorate as a whole
FLOOR	B				X	minor deterioration evident
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	N/A					
HEATING	C			£450		Fit new radiator with TRV and LST
VENTILATION	C	£450				Fit mechanical extract
DOORS	B			£500		Fit new fire door and frame
FIXTURES	A					
ELECTRICAL	A					
WASH HAND BASINS	B				X	minor deterioration evident
Page Totals		£450	£0	£1,300	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

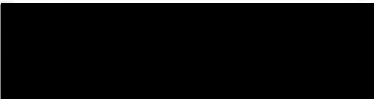
Room Area /sqm: 43

Room Description: Classroom Two

Room Ref: FF1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B				X	
WALLS	B			£1,495		Damp ingress: replaster reveals to upvc windows 6m2. Damp ingress below windows 3m2 - incl. Cracks replaster and repaint and redecorate as a whole
FLOOR	B			£1,600		Fit new floor covering
LIGHTING	B			£800		Fit high frequency lighting units
WINDOWS	B			£1,700		Replace 2 no. timber windows 1.5 x 2m frames decaying
HEATING	A					
VENTILATION	C			£1,500		Fit mechanical extract and cooling unit
DOORS	B		£500			Fit new fire door and frame
FIXTURES	B			£600		Replace aged units
ELECTRICAL	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WASH HAND BASINS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£500	£7,695	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

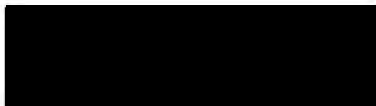
Room Area /sqm: 7

Room Description: Office

Room Ref: FF2

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	A					
WALLS	B			£250		Paint window reveals and make good and decorate behind radiator
FLOOR	C		£250			Fit safety flooring - floor covering showing wear and tear
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	A					
HEATING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
VENTILATION	C			£1,000		Fit mechanical extract and cooling unit
DOORS	B		£500			Fit new fire door and frame
FIXTURES	N/A					
ELECTRICAL	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WASH HAND BASINS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£750	£1,250	N/A	





School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

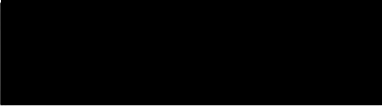
Room Area /sqm: 68

Room Description HALL- 1st floor

Room Ref: FF3

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B		£600			Rectify water ingress and replace stained tiles
WALLS	B			£150		Remove flaking paint from south end and repaint 4m2.
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	A					
HEATING	A					
VENTILATION	C			£4,500		Provide mechanical extract and cooling
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	A					
ELECTRICAL	A					
WASH HAND BASINS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£600	£4,650	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Room Area /sqm: 5

Room Description Store

Room Ref: FF4

## INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B			£150		Repaint ceiling
WALLS	B			£1,200		Patch repair, re-skim and decorate and refit shelving
FLOOR	B			£300		Fit safety flooring
LIGHTING	B			£100		Replace with sealed unit
WINDOWS	B			£1,000	X	Replace with UPVC 1.2 x 1.6
HEATING	N/A					
VENTILATION	C			£450		Fit mechanical extract
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	B				X	minor deterioration evident
ELECTRICAL	A					
WASH HAND BASINS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£0	£3,200	N/A	

School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

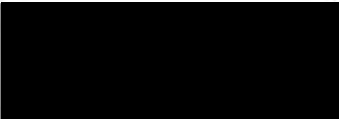
Room Area /sqm: 10

Room Description: Staff Room Second Floor

Room Ref: SF1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	A					
WALLS	A					
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	A					Velux roof light
HEATING	C			£450		Fit radiator, TRV and LST cover
VENTILATION	C			£800		Fit mechanical extract and cooling
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	A					Sink unit and water heater
ELECTRICAL	A					
WASH HAND BASINS	A					
Page Totals		£0	£0	£1,250	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Room Area /sqm: 4

Room Description SB - staircase to basement

Room Ref:

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WALLS	B				X	minor deterioration evident - brick and stonework
FLOOR	B			£450		Fit safety flooring and nosing
LIGHTING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WINDOWS	N/A					
HEATING	N/A					
VENTILATION	N/A					
DOORS	N/A					
FIXTURES	N/A					
ELECTRICAL	N/A					
WASH HAND BASINS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£0	£450	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Room Area /sqm: 7

Room Description Basement Plant Room

Room Ref: P1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B			£350		Clean and seal concrete ceiling
WALLS	B			£450		Make good pointing, clean and seal
FLOOR	B		£425			Repair damaged and worn steps, seal and paint floor
LIGHTING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WINDOWS	N/A					
HEATING	N/A					
VENTILATION	C	£450				Provide adequate passive ventilation
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	A					
BOILERS	C	£1,250				Separate oil tank and boiler - fire wall
WASH HAND BASINS						
	Page Totals	£1,700	£425	£800	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 6

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: C

Room Area /sqm: 160

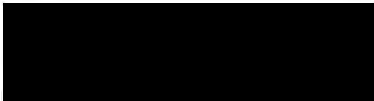
Room Description Elliot Mobile Classroom

Room Ref: MB 1 & 2

## INTERNAL CONDITION

Note: 2 Classroom areas contained within this area

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	A					
WALLS	A					
FLOOR	B				X	minor deterioration evident
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	A					
HEATING	A					Cages fitted as LST covers
VENTILATION	C			£2,000		Fit mechanical extract and cooling units
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	B				X	minor deterioration evident - sink and worktop
ELECTRICAL	A					
WASH HAND BASINS	B				X	minor deterioration evident
Page Totals		£0	£0	£2,000	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 6

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: C

Room Area /sqm: 6

Room Description Mobile female WC

Room Ref: MBT1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	A					
WALLS	A					
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	N/A					
HEATING	C	£150				Resite electric radiators away from water sources
VENTILATION	B	£250				Mechanical extract fitted - vent soil pipes
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	A					
ELECTRICAL	A					
SANITARY WARE	A					
Page Totals		£400	£0	£0	N/A	

School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 6

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: C

Room Area /sqm: 6

Room Description: Mobile male WC

Room Ref: MBT2

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	A					
WALLS	A					
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	N/A					
HEATING	C	£150				Resite electric radiators away from water sources
VENTILATION	B	£250				Mechanical extract fitted - vent soil pipes
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	A					
ELECTRICAL	A					
SANITARY WARE	A					
	Page Totals	£400	£0	£0	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 6

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: C

Room Area /sqm: 8

Room Description: Mobile foyer

Room Ref: MBF1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	A					
WALLS	A					
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	N/A					
HEATING	N/A					
VENTILATION	N/A					
DOORS	A					
FIXTURES	A					
ELECTRICAL	A					
SANITARY WARE	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£0	£0	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Room Area /sqm: 4

Room Description Stock Room

Room Ref: GF3

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B				X	minor deterioration evident
WALLS	B				X	minor deterioration evident
FLOOR	B				X	minor deterioration evident
LIGHTING	B			£150		Replace with sealed unit
WINDOWS	N/A					
HEATING	N/A					
VENTILATION	N/A					
DOORS	B	£80				Replace door latch assembly
FIXTURES	B				X	minor deterioration evident
ELECTRICAL	A					
SANITARY WARE	N/A					
Page Totals		£80	£0	£150	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Room Area /sqm:

Room Description: Stairwell

Room Ref: SW1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	B			£100		Replace damaged ceiling tiles
WALLS	B		£900			Rectify water ingress, hack off and replaster and decorate
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	A					uPVC
HEATING	N/A					
VENTILATION	N/A					
DOORS	N/A					
FIXTURES	B				X	minor deterioration evident
ELECTRICAL	A					
SANITARY WARE	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£900	£100	N/A	

School Name: ST THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Room Area /sqm: 7

Room Description Landing First Floor

Room Ref: LF1

### INTERNAL CONDITION

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
CEILING	A			£100		Replace damaged ceiling tiles
WALLS	B			£550		Skim front elevation wall and redecorate
FLOOR	A					
LIGHTING	A					
WINDOWS	C	£500				Fit safety glass
HEATING	N/A					
VENTILATION	N/A					
DOORS	N/A					
FIXTURES	A					
ELECTRICAL	A					
SANITARY WARE	N/A					
Page Totals		£500	£0	£650	N/A	



















School Name: ST THOMAS SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1875 -1

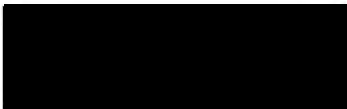
Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Asset Description: WEST ELEVATION/MAIN ENTRANCE

### EXTERNAL BUILDING CONDITION -ROOFS

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
ROOFS -PITCHED	B				X	minor deterioration evident
ROOFS -FLAT	N/A					No Access
FLASHINGS	B			£450		Re point verge and ridge
FASCIAS	N/A					
BARGEBOARDS	N/A					
SOFFITS	N/A					
GUTTERING	B			£300		Replace cast iron sections
DOWNPIPES	B				X	minor deterioration evident
CHIMNEY STACKS	N/A					
SOIL STACKS	B				X	minor deterioration evident
DORMERS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£0	£750	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 1

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: A

Asset Description: EAST [REAR] ELEVATION

### EXTERNAL BUILDING CONDITION -ROOFS

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
ROOFS -PITCHED	A				X	minor deterioration evident
ROOFS -FLAT	N/A					
FLASHINGS	N/A					
FASCIAS	N/A					
BARGEBOARDS	N/A					
SOFFITS	N/A					
GUTTERING	B			£350		Replace cast iron sections - corroded
DOWNPIPES	B				X	minor deterioration evident
CHIMNEY STACKS	N/A					
SOIL STACKS	N/A					
DORMERS	N/A					
	Page Totals	£0	£0	£350	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference:

Asset Description: NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS

### EXTERNAL BUILDING CONDITION -ROOFS

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
ROOFS -PITCHED	N/A					
ROOFS -FLAT	B			£1,800		Replace flat roof covering - due to water ingress
FLASHINGS	N/A					
FASCIAS	N/A					
BARGEBOARDS	N/A					
SOFFITS	N/A					
GUTTERING	N/A					INTERNAL COULD NOT BE INSPECTED
DOWNPIPES	B				X	minor deterioration evident
CHIMNEY STACKS	N/A					
SOIL STACKS	N/A					
DORMERS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£0	£1,800	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 2

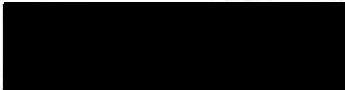
Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: B

Asset Description: EAST ELEVATION [REAR]

### EXTERNAL BUILDING CONDITION -ROOFS

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
ROOFS -PITCHED	N/A					
ROOFS -FLAT	B			X		cost included in internal section
FLASHINGS	N/A					
FASCIAS	N/A					
BARGEBOARDS	N/A					
SOFFITS	N/A					
GUTTERING	N/A					
DOWNPIPES	B				X	minor deterioration evident
CHIMNEY STACKS	N/A					
SOIL STACKS	B				X	minor deterioration evident
DORMERS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£0	£0	N/A	



School Name: ST THOMAS SCHOOL

School No. 3000

Site Reference: 1

Premises Type: 6

Survey Date: 11-Mar-04

Block Reference: C

Asset Description: MOBILE CLASSROOM [ELLIOT]

### EXTERNAL BUILDING CONDITION -ROOFS

ELEMENT	CONDITION	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 4	Works Required
ROOFS -PITCHED	N/A					
ROOFS -FLAT	A					
FLASHINGS	N/A					
FASCIAS	N/A					
BARGEBOARDS	N/A					
SOFFITS	N/A					
GUTTERING	A					
DOWNPIPES	B			£2,500		Install gullies to down pipes and connect to existing drainage
CHIMNEY STACKS	N/A					
SOIL STACKS	N/A					
DORMERS	N/A					
Page Totals		£0	£0	£2,500	N/A	





## St Thomas School Summary Cost Sheet

### Internal Areas

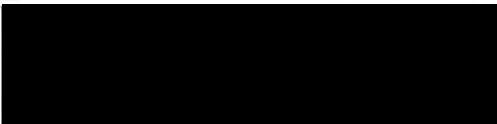
Room ID	Description	Area	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
T2	Girls Toilet	7	£450	£850	£0
T1	Boys Toilet	10	£450	£1,150	£50
GF1	Classroom	85	£0	£2,200	£3,750
GF2	Cloaks	11	£0	£950	£200
S1/S2	GF - FF Staircase	0	£100	£0	£100
T3	Staff Toilet	2	£450	£0	£1,300
FF1	Classroom Two	43	£0	£500	£7,695
FF2	Office	7	£0	£750	£1,250
FF3	HALL- 1st floor	68	£0	£600	£4,650
FF4	Store	5	£0	£0	£3,200
SF1	Staff Room Second Floor	10	£0	£0	£1,250
0	SB - staircase to basement	4	£0	£0	£450
P1	Basement Plant Room	7	£1,700	£425	£800
MB 1 & 2	Elliot Mobile Classroom	160	£0	£0	£2,000
MBT1	Mobile female WC	6	£400	£0	£0
MBT2	Mobile male WC	6	£400	£0	£0
MBF1	Mobile foyer	8	£0	£0	£0
GF3	Stock Room	4	£80	£0	£150
SW1	Stairwell	0	£0	£900	£100
LF1	Landing First Floor	7	£500	£0	£650
Sub Totals			£4,530	£8,325	£27,595

### External Areas

Description	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	
External Areas	£0	£0	£3,100	
External Walls	£0	£0	£3,450	
External Roofs	£0	£0	£5,400	
Sub Totals	£0	£0	£11,950	
Totals		£4,530	£8,325	£39,545



**PHOTOGRAPH  
PLATES**



## Index of photographs

### St Thomas School

3000-1	Upper level support to fire escape - poor filling
3000-2	Crack & crazing to boundary wall
3000-3	Uneven footpath adj to mobile classroom
3000-4	Vertical crack to boundary wall at chester street
3000-5	Penetrating damp to room GF1
3000-6	Penetrating damp to room GF1
3000-7	Penetrating damp to room GF1
3000-8	Damp to room FF1
3000-9	Remedial works required to room FF4



3000-01.JPG



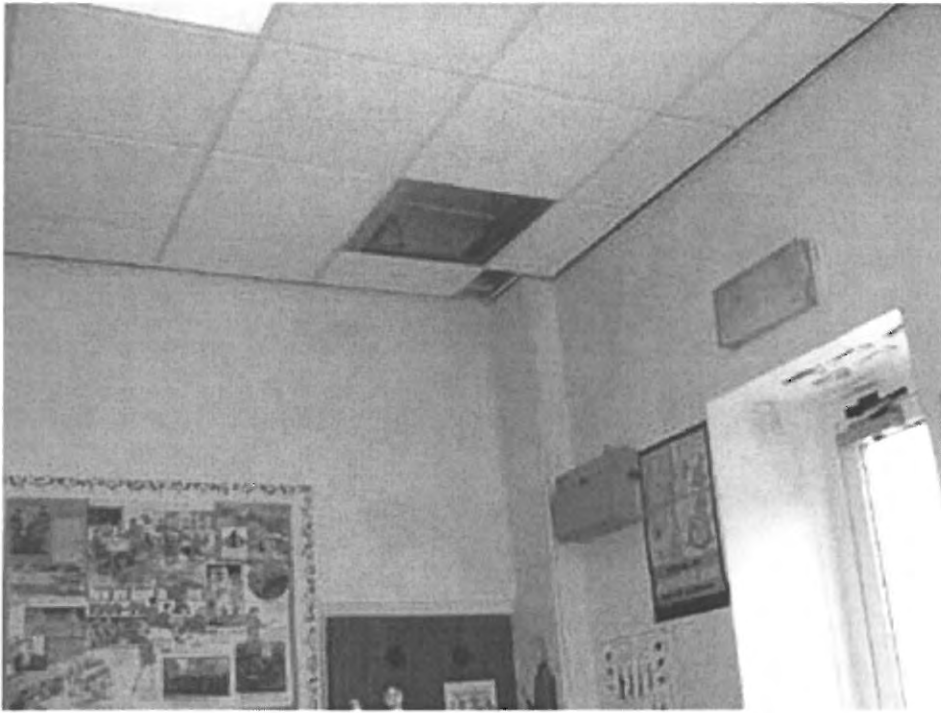
3000-02.JPG



3000-03.JPG



3000-04.JPG



3000-05.JPG



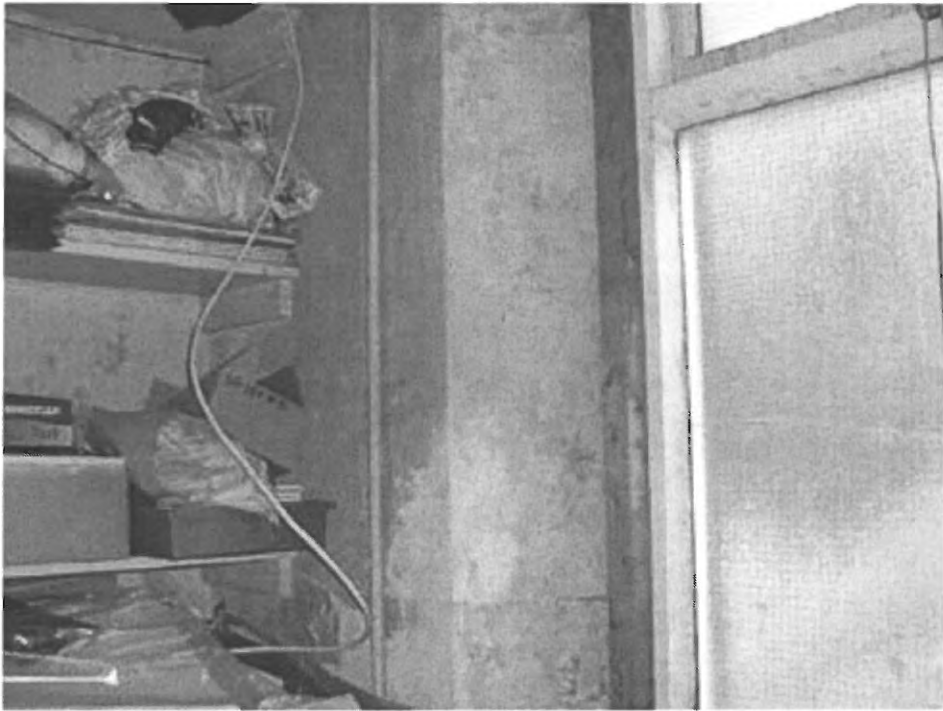
3000-06.JPG



3000-07.JPG



3000-08.JPG



3000-09.JPG

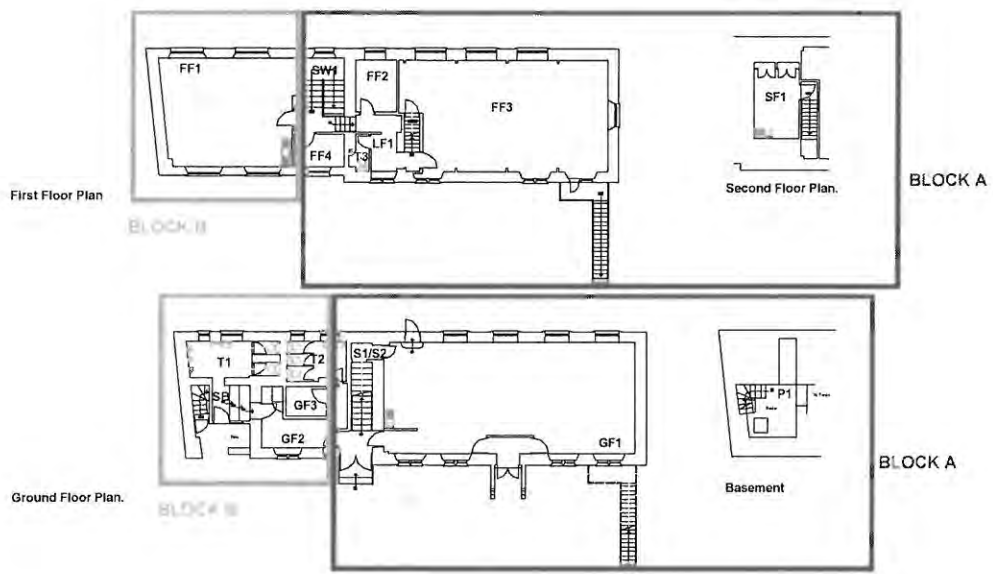




**LAYOUT DRAWINGS**

**513-705 3000-01**





**Notes**  
 Based on Dept of Education  
 Drawing Master 02 9/08/2002

REV	DATE	BY

**CLIENT**  
 Dept. of Education

**Property**  
 St. Thomas' C.R. School,  
 St. Thomas' Walk,  
 Douglas,  
 Isle of Man

Drawing No: 513-705 3000-01

**TITLE**  
 Room Layout


<b>DATE</b>	June 2003
<b>DRAWN BY</b>	JW
<b>SCALE</b>	1:200 @ A3



## APPENDIX A

### Criteria for Condition Assessment





---

**Appendix A**

**Criteria for Condition Assessment**

**Grade A**

Good, performing as intended and operating efficiently

**Grade B**

Satisfactory, performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration

**Grade C**

Poor, exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended

**Grade D**

Bad. Life expired and or serious risk of imminent failure

**Priority Assessment**

**Priority 1**

Urgent work that will prevent immediate closure of the premises and/or address an immediate high risk to the health and safety of the occupants and/or remedy a serious breach of legislation.

**Priority 2**

Essential work required within two years that will prevent serious deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a medium risk to health and safety of the occupants and/or remedy a less serious breach of legislation.

**Priority 3**

Desirable work required within three to five years that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a low risk to the health and safety of the occupants and/or remedy a minor breach of legislation.

**Priority 4**

Long term work required outside the five year planning period that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services

Summary Assessment form Primary School

SCHOOL NAME **St Thomas' C of E Primary School**

Space classification	Spaces					Direct Impacts on Education				H&S/ Security			Comments Summary
	Existing	Optimum	Surplus	Shortfall	Impact	A	B	C	D	High	Medium	Low	
1. General Teaching	4	4											1 Classroom is on the small size
5. Technology		1		1	B		1						Inadequate facility, cramped
9. SEN		1		1		1							No designated area
11. Hall	1	2		1									Inadequate for PE/Multi use Hall
13. Resource Areas													
15. Mixed use practical		1		1	B		1						Inadequate facilities
16. Studio													
17. Other (specify)													
<b>18 Teaching Spaces</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>						
19. Staff and admin spaces				1	C			1					Staff room, H/T & Sec's room inadequate
20. Pupil changing/toilets				1	D				1				Staff WC shared. Passageway to T2 is dark
21. Teaching Storage				1	C			1			1		PE/Chair store high up, difficult to access
22. Kitchen/Dining													
23. Ancilliary/circulation									1				Plant room has difficult access
<b>24 Non-teaching spaces</b>				<b>3</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
25. Playing fields						1					1		No facility for sports/play
26. Hard surfaced play areas									1		1		Limited due to size and location
27. Soft landscaped areas													
28. Access roads and paths													
29. Car parking								1			1		None only church alleyway
<b>30 External areas</b>						<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>	
<b>31 Provision for disabilities and special educational needs</b>						<b>1</b>							

**Residential accommodation and community use**

No Comment

**Quantification of loss from suitability problems**

Lessons in inadequate spaces, 20 teaching periods per week, average group size 20 children  
Lack of appropriate staff facilities - effects all staff  
Lack of sports facility - effects all children  
Inadequate facilities for I.C.T & SEN

**Basis of assessment**

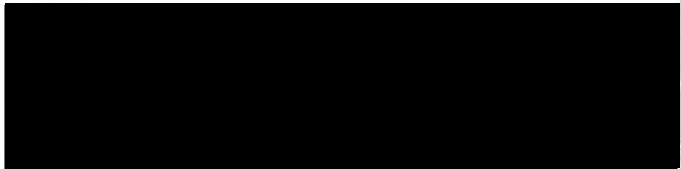
Existing Roll September 2004 - 78

**Assessment date**

Sep-04

**KEY:**

- A = Unable to teach curriculum
- B = Teaching methods inhibited
- C = Management or organisation of school adversely affected
- D = Pupil/Staff morale or pupil behaviour adversely affected



**Boundary Survey**

**Photographic Record**



**March 2010**

**St Thomas Primary School**

**D272-A32**

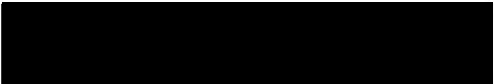




Photo 1:



Photo 2:

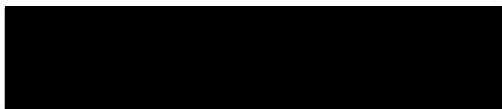






Photo 3:



Photo 4:





Photo 5:



Photo 6:

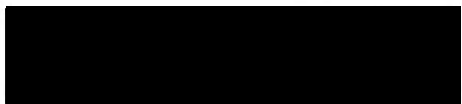




Photo 7:



Photo 8:

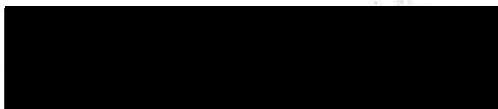




Photo 9:



Photo 10:

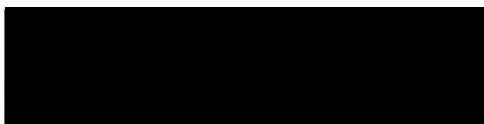




Photo 11:



Photo 12:

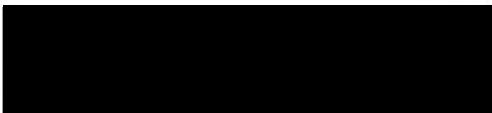
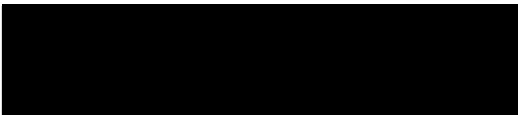




Photo 13:



Photo 14:



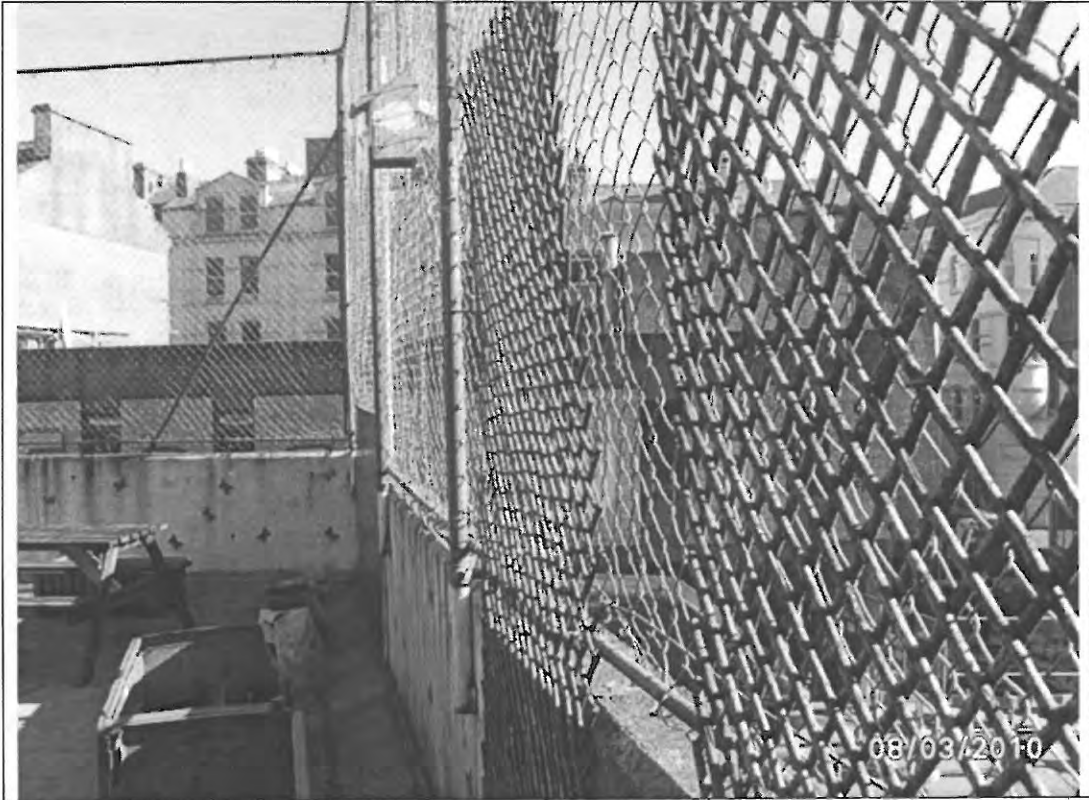


Photo 15:



Photo 16:

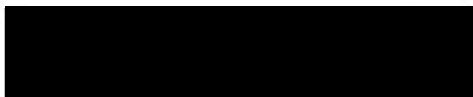




Photo 17:



Photo 18:

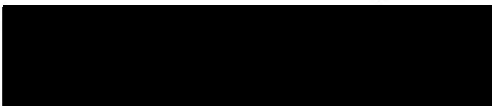
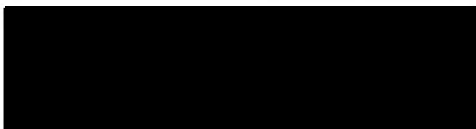




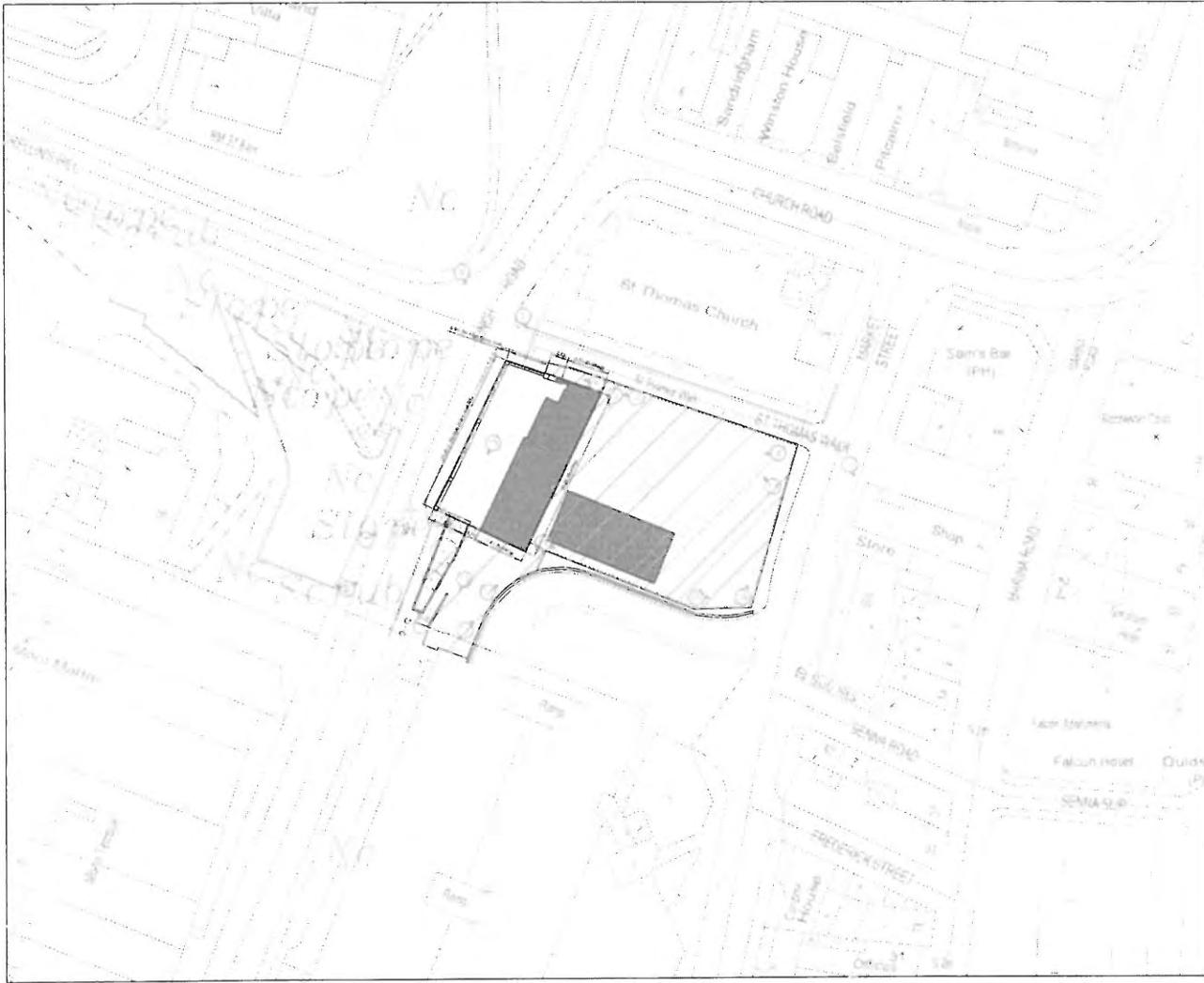


Photo 19:



D272-A32 - St Thomas School Co-ords.txt

X=238150.656 Y=475977.562  
X=238161.903 Y=476000.981  
X=238156.021 Y=476003.018  
X=238156.039 Y=476003.068  
X=238153.640 Y=476003.889  
X=238153.620 Y=476003.831  
X=238147.956 Y=476005.785  
X=238145.569 Y=476001.043  
X=238143.503 Y=475996.740  
X=238141.409 Y=475992.473  
X=238139.321 Y=475988.194  
X=238137.146 Y=475983.969  
X=238142.417 Y=475981.570  
X=238143.979 Y=475980.821



## Clark, Danita

---

**From:** Collister, Richard (DEC)  
**Sent:** 28 April 2017 09:16  
**To:** Cregeen, Graham; Hooper, Lawrie (MHK); Corkish, Geoff (MLC); Corlett, Ann (MHK)  
**Cc:** Barr, Ronald  
**Subject:** FW: St Thomas School  
**Attachments:** Suitability Survey.xls; St Thomas Condition Survey 2004.pdf; St Thomas'.pdf; Boundary Survey St Thomas.pdf

Minister / Members

Ronald has asked me to forward to you any existing surveys / reports, and my brief thoughts on the drivers for coming out of the existing St Thomas's building / site.

The key issue is **suitability** of the accommodation. Is it fit for purpose? ... definitely not ....this is covered within the 2004 suitability report attached; the spaces / accommodation haven't changed since, so all still holds true – inadequate teaching accommodation, inappropriate staff facilities, lack of sporting facilities / poor external recreational space (on shop roof – M&Co), no disabled access provision ... I could go on.

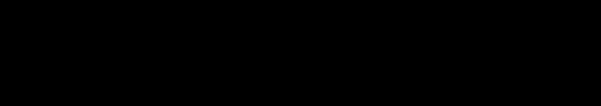
With regard to **condition**, the last formal report was also back in 2004 – the majority of these issues will have been addressed but other similar issues will have arisen .. with that sort of old building it is very often difficult to just maintain the status quo given the fundamental issues e.g. solid masonry walls / water ingress / dampness issues, and budget constraints. Before Easter there was a roof leak / water dripping into a classroom – scaffolding was put up over Easter (very difficult access given heights and site footprint) to address; in my terms the condition reports under-sell the issues, in envisaging a repair.. but not upgrading to modern 21C educational facilities, with proper ventilation, acoustics etc.

Also find attached for your info the floor plans of the existing building. The plans highlight the inappropriateness of the accommodation – narrow stairways, cramped and poorly proportioned spaces, and rooms accessed through rooms etc. In addition to the two permanent classrooms shown on the plan, two further classrooms are provided in a double mobile classroom located on the shop roof. Also attached for your info is the Boundary Survey – includes external photographs highlighting the constrained site and very poor outdoor provision.

Regards,

Richard

Richard A Collister BSc (Hons), MRICS.  
Director of Estates  
Department of Education and Children  
Hamilton House  
Peel Road  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM1 5EZ



**St Thomas's CE**

66 (66)

50

This school has had a long standing roll beyond its permanent capacity with 1 of the 3 classrooms provided in a remove mobile classroom, located on the roof of a retail unit. The building is not fit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century education, and is lacking in suitable internal and external facilities on all fronts. The Department is in early dialogue with the Church regarding options to move to improved facilities. The Balladoan and Fairfield sites will become available in late 2016, although not favoured by the Department as a solution for St Thomas's, for the same reasons which drove the case for the new Henry Bloom Noble (HBN) school project. A feasibility study has been undertaken looking at the conversion and extension of the retained former post-graduate medical centre on the HBN site. This study established that separate 4 class/100 capacity school development is possible, with the sharing of the HBN school core hall facilities and external play/sports areas.

**Department Reports & Minutes**

Dept minutes/Report & Date	Referenced materials (Department Minutes and Reports to the Department)
<p>27/02/13</p> <p>Estates Report for Department meeting</p>	<p>Westmoreland Road Primary school Find attached in Appendix A, current business case (excluding appendices), currently under review by Treasury. The main issues raised to-date by Treasury are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed 2 form entry/350 mainstream capacity of school, against current combined roll of 237; see 5.2</li> <li>• Scope/floor area of proposed school compared to DfES UK guidelines; see 5.4</li> <li>• Proposed incorporation of good sporting, youth and community facilities; see 5.3 and 5.4</li> <li>• Sought retention of Fairfield site – whilst St Thomas’s re-location may not be appropriate, it could be a suitable location for the Education Support Centre, to free up Glencrutchery building for H.E.; see 2.0.</li> </ul>
<p>8/07/13</p> <p>Estates Report for Department meeting</p>	<p>Westmoreland Road Primary school (£11,066,505) Treasury business case approval received, subject to remaining matter regarding incorporation of St Thomas’s – DEC have met with Treasury regarding this matter and further correspondence to close down further data to be provided on Douglas school rolls / forecast. Now progressing tendering of remaining design team members – Civil and Structural Engineer, Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, and Planning Supervisor, to enable full team concurrence / appointment and early progression into design. To hold further meetings with head teacher prior to end of term, to review / develop specific areas of the proposed design. Also wish to confirm public display of proposals at school before the end of term.</p> <p>St Marys (£1,096,500) To progress feasibility study; do we seriously need to consider Treasury comments at Budget meeting re. possibility of multi-faith school, St Mary’s and St Thomas’s combined, on St Mary’s site?; in this case the extension would need to be two storey to accommodate additional St Thomas’s roll.</p>
<p>20/09/13</p> <p>Estates Report for Department meeting</p>	<p>St Marys (£1,096,500) As sought at last meeting, to progress feasibility study do we seriously need to consider Treasury comments at Budget meeting re. possibility of multi-faith school, St Mary’s and St Thomas’s combined, on St Mary’s site?; in this case the extension would need to be two storey to accommodate additional St Thomas’s roll; clear direction appreciated.</p>
<p>Department minutes 7/04/14</p>	<p>3. Estates – St Thomas’s Church of England Primary School/St Mary’s Roman Catholic Primary School</p> <p>Members were informed that this matter has not been progressed and that the Department was still awaiting responses from the two churches. It was agreed this matter would be followed up.</p>
<p>Department minutes 19/04/14</p>	<p>Item 3 - Estates – St Thomas’ Church of England Primary School and St Mary’s Roman Catholic Primary School</p> <p>Members were advised that there was still no response to the original meeting held with the Lord Bishop and the Roman Catholic Canon in respect of possible future developments on the St Mary’s site. It was agreed that the Head of Legal and Administrative</p>

	Services would write to both parties requesting a response to the initial meeting.
Department minutes 19/04/14	<p>A. Draft Planning applications – Departmental approval sought to progress to planning</p> <p>B1) St Thomas' replacement fencing The existing fence to the rooftop playground over the M&amp;Co retail unit is in a poor condition. Its' primary functions are keeping the pupils safe and preventing balls from escaping from the playground. Such is the condition, the fence is beginning to become a potential hazard to people walking below. The proposed budget for the works is £35,000 (2014/15 minor capital), a figure which is necessary due to working at 1st storey height and the need to protect the public.</p>
Department minutes 31/07/14	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Part 1, Item 1 – St Thomas's Church of England Primary School/St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School An up-date on discussions with the representatives of both church schools was provided by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services. Members were informed that the Bishop had indicated that he was happy for discussions to proceed to find a solution to the issue of accommodation at St Thomas's School. The Roman Catholic Canon had indicated that whilst the Liverpool Diocese Director of Education was willing to explore opportunities further, they were not in favour of a merger of both schools. Further discussions are to take place.</p>
Department minutes 19/12/14	<p>Item 2 – St Thomas' / St Mary's Primary Schools The Minister confirmed that he had had a conversation with the Bishop in order to progress this matter.</p>
Department minutes 29/05/15 / EIS report to Dept meeting May 2015	<p>External Validation Three schools - St Thomas's, Willaston and Scoill Phurt le Moirrey - received External Validations visits earlier this month. As yet, WJC have not produced written reports in relation to these visits but the intention is to release these documents towards the end of the term.</p>
Department minutes 29/05/15	<p>Matter arising - Part 1 item 3 St Thomas's Church of England Primary School It was agreed that Mr Richard Collister (Estates Director) was to arrange a briefing for the head teacher and members of the governing body to outline the various options which were available to them for relocation to another additional site. The options were Ballacloan site, Fairfield site or an additional building on the Henry Bloom Noble complex.</p>
Department minutes 24/07/15	<p>B. Other matters</p> <p>St Thomas's - Meeting held on 15/7 with Bishop / CoE church members to review possible relocation options to Fairfield, Ballacloan and HBN campus, followed by school visits, culminating with a tour of the HBN site; church to consider further and come back with their views.</p>

Department minutes 24/07/15	Mr Corkish, MLC thanked the Estates Director for organising the recent site visit to the new Henry Bloom Noble School and it was agreed that it would be useful for the Department members to also visit St Thomas' School for comparison purposes. The Estates Director undertook to arrange this.
Department minutes 16/10/15	The Chief Executive Officer spoke about the development of higher education and looking at a business case in terms of investing in this in order to save money in the longer term. He also referred to the political dynamic behind this in regard to other buildings such as St. Thomas' and St Mary's as well as Castle Rushen
Department minutes 16/10/15	Rugby - Identified & utilised two Ballakermeen High School students to assist in the delivery of Year 2 and 3 'Schemes of Work' to St. Thomas' school, as the school had no one else to coach them.
Department minutes 20/11/15	Ballacloan and Fairfield: It would be a difficult sell for St Thomas' to move from their present site to Ballacloan especially when the case has been made to move from Ballacloan into a new school. The current view is that these schools are surplus to requirements.
Department minutes 22/01/16	<p>St Mary's School –Following support at meeting with Business Case Group (BCG), Option two is being progressed - that is the two form entry plan. Reference was made at the BCG meeting to the current scheme excluding the re-cladding of the existing building / re-roofing , to improve thermal performance and visual appearance in line with the new extensions – this would have to follow on by Dol under revenue / minor capital funding.</p> <p>It was agreed to extend to scope / funding of the capital project to include this – the Director of Estates confirmed he is now working on expanded feasibility study with the team with a view to completing final business case for submission asap. It was queried whether there was the possibility of some funding from the Catholic Church for development of St Mary's – Director of Estates to explore legal position with Andrew Shipley – will need to comment on in business case. Mr Corkish brought up the issue of a co-joined faith school bringing St Thomas's School to St Mary's. This has not been progressed. The Minister mentioned a visit by representatives of the Catholic Church from Liverpool and an invitation had been received from Monsignor John Devine to Department Members to attend a meeting in the Barool Suite on the 31 January 2016.</p>
Department minutes 15/07/16	St Thomas' - There was discussion around the issue of St Thomas' School moving elsewhere. Scoill Vallajeelt has been suggested as a possibility. Mr Malarkey has spoken with the Bishop and the Rev. James. This needs to be progressed over the summer and agreed with the new administration post-election.
Department minutes 7/12/16	St Thomas' School – Minister Cregeen and various Officers met with representatives of the Church and school to discuss possibilities for the future. There was a preliminary discussion with a view to create a new faith school. A working group is to be formed to look at options for replacing St Thomas's. If the present St Thomas' is sold off then it is anticipated that the church will keep a substantial part of any money realised. The remainder may need to be used to refresh and rebrand a new school which comes out of the process. It is anticipated that it is likely to take about 18 months to put in place the new faith school. Minister Cregeen said that he felt that it was important that people putting their children in to the schools have an awareness of the situation so that they can plan ahead.



Department minutes 1/02/17	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>☑ St Thomas's – initial meeting set up, but it was cancelled and there will be a meeting with the Heads. Reverend James is the church representative. An open dialogue will have to occur.</p>
EIS Report to Dept meeting March 2017	<p>St Thomas'</p> <p>A meeting took place with Rev James McGowan, Yvette Mellor and the headteachers of St Thomas' School and Scoill Vallajeelt. After much discussion, parties were still somewhat divided about whether an amalgamated St Thomas' School /Scoill Vallajeelt should be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a faith school - open to those of any faith and none</li> <li>- a CofE school which has an inclusive admissions policy and is therefore open to those of any faith and none</li> </ul> <p>A decision is required, therefore, from the Department as to how best to proceed.</p>
Department minutes 1/03/17	<p>MATTERS ARISING – from minutes dated 1st February 2017</p> <p>St Thomas' - the Director of Education has met with the Headteachers of the two schools possibly affected and it is necessary to establish a way forward. September 2018 is viewed as a possible date for the new school. A political decision is needed regarding the type of faith school to be formed. It was suggested that a visit to a faith school may be needed by various people including the Minister and political members, possibly in April or May. A wide-ranging consultation will be needed with all stakeholders and a timeline is needed before July 2017.</p> <p>It is felt that a planned approach would be the best in order to implement any plans rather than the change being directed. There is a concern about the timing for a new faith school and parents choosing which school to send their children to. The admissions criteria will change, especially if it is to be either a Church of England school or a faith school.</p> <p>Action - visit to faith schools to be organised for April/ May 2017</p>
Department minutes 5/04/17	<p>Education Improvement Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 To accept the report presented by the Director of Education - Agreed</li> <li>2 To determine on what basis an amalgamation of St Thomas' and Scoill Vallajeelt should proceed - Agreed co-location (rather than amalgamation)</li> </ol>
DEC minutes 5/04/17	<p>St Thomas' - the Director of Education is meeting the Headteachers of the two schools potentially affected on 5th April to discuss logistical concerns after which a meeting will take place with school parents. It was agreed to begin work on a draft note to be sent to parents at the two schools and to prepare a media release.</p>
Department minutes 3/05/17	<p>MATTERS ARISING – from minutes dated 5th April 2017:- St Thomas' – it was confirmed to proceed with the proposal to co-locate St Thomas' pupils and staff on the Scoill Vallajeelt Primary School site with both schools retaining their own identity, Governors and Headteachers. Discussions will continue to finalise the details of practical and logistical issues for the schools and the Department and it was agreed to request a list of issues from the two Headteachers. The opportunity will be taken to clarify the nature/amount of the transfer of any cash assets to the Department (and around the preservation of the murals in St Thomas').</p>
Department Minutes 3/05/17	<p>Notes from meeting:</p> <p>St Thomas' – A response is awaited from Reverend McGowan.</p>
EIS Report to Dept meeting June 2017	<p>St Thomas' - Following the agreement of the political members to pursue the co-location of St Thomas' School and Scoill Vallajeelt on the Scoill Vallajeelt site, a series of meetings have been scheduled to further discuss the proposal with stakeholders. Meetings will take place with staff and Governors and then parents/carers will be invited to further meetings to ask any questions they may have.</p>

**Education Council minutes**

<p>Education Council minutes 22/02/13</p>	<p>Any other matters of urgent importance - In concluding the meeting, the Minister stated that all schools, except for St Thomas' and the Pre School Assessment Centre, had now been visited by himself, Mr J Turner, MLC and Mr T Wild, MLC. They had been made very welcome by each establishment and felt they had learned a lot. Members were asked to pass on feedback to the schools.</p>
<p>Education Council minutes 20/11/15</p>	<p>Professor Barr reported that the Henry Bloom Noble School, although 2 weeks behind schedule is progressing well and that he is delighted with the outcome at present and that completion of the building looks to be on time. Professor Barr reported that negotiations are taking place with St Thomas's and the Bishop in regard to St Thomas's being a separate school on the Henry Bloom Noble site with some shared catering and work facilities Professor Barr also stated that the Ballacloan site was being considered and that discussions were on-going on both options.</p>
<p>Education Council minutes 19/06/15</p>	<p>Presentation by Mr R Collister (Estates Director on Estates Matters and Capital Projects – 10.00am) – Questions and Answers: Q. Is St Thomas's in a similar position, as this is going to deteriorate significantly unless further investment is made? A. No major expenditure is planned for this site while options are considered for the possible relocation of the school. Any essential maintenance work is of course undertaken.</p>
<p>Education Council minutes 23/03/16</p>	<p>New School for St Thomas's (where are we up to?) - The question of a new school for St Thomas's was raised. Sites have been looked at, including Fairfield, Ballacloan and Henry Bloom Noble. It was pointed out that Fairfield and Ballacloan are old schools. This issue will not be settled quickly though and St Thomas' will continue to be a separate school. The Sports facilities at Henry Bloom Noble could be readily used by a new St Thomas' school. The concern was raised that the school could be absorbed into Henry Bloom Noble. The question was asked of whether St Thomas' could be in a completely different location and this is something which needs to be considered further. A meeting was requested for after April 2016 in order to discuss the issue of St Thomas's further. The idea of an all Island faith school has been rejected.</p>
<p>Education Council minutes 08/07/16</p>	<p>St Thomas' – The Chief Executive Officer reported that 2 meetings have been held so far with representatives of St Thomas' school. The Chief Executive Officer mentioned that this is a high priority issue, as St Thomas' school has inadequate provisions for staff and pupils and that we need to find a solution to this. Another meeting is due to be held.</p>
<p>Education Council minutes 28/11/16</p>	<p>St Thomas' – There will be a meeting with the Reverend J McGowen and others about possibilities for replacing St Thomas'. There will be on-going discussions.</p>
<p>Education Council minutes 12/06/17</p> <p>Minutes not yet signed and agreed.</p>	<p>St Thomas' School – The Minister informed Members that schools will be briefed about the decision to collocate St Thomas's School with Scoill Vallajeelt school. The Minister said that the Diocese are in agreement with the move of the school. The CEO is going to meet with the Director of Education, St Thomas's School staff, Governing Bodies and Scoill Vallajeelt staff on Tuesday 13th June 2017. The CEO said that the two schools will operate independently on the same campus from 2018 and that the Director of Estates is positive that we can accommodate and utilise this space. The CEO did express that he would like to keep the discussion confidential until the press has been contacted and also until letters have been sent out to parents. The CEO said that he has also had discussions with Carole Walsh representing NAHT, which has been positive. The CEO said that this is a positive move for staff and children with much better facilities and a better site. The CEO said that parents will be advised about the move in plenty of time.</p>

## **Merger Working Party**

**Date** – 15-3-17

**Time** – 9am

**Place** – Hamilton House, Conference Room 1

### **Attendees; –**

Rev James McGowan, Diocesan Schools Officer, The Diocese of Sodor and Man

Mrs Denise Lyon, Headteacher, Scoill Vallajeelt

Mrs Clare Manser, Headteacher, St Thomas' School

Mrs Yvette Mellor, Director of Strategy and Corporate Services

Mr Geoff Moorcroft, Director of Education

### **Agenda**

1. Aims – to explore the idea of a merger of St Thomas's and Scoill Vallajeelt, to become a faith school, on the site of Scoill Vallajeelt
2. What do you understand by the idea of a 'faith school' and how would this be distinctive?
3. What would be the advantages/disadvantages of a merger?
4. If desired, how should the merger be operationalized?
5. What issues would need to be addressed?
6. Next steps?

## Meeting - Merger Working Party 15-3-17

Aim - we are seeking to 'explore' idea of merged 'faith' school on the site of Scoill Vallajeelt - no more at the moment. The point of today's meeting is to establish more fully what such a school would be like, how it would function and what would make it distinctive, to develop a sense of what the advantages and disadvantages of doing this would be, to consider the process of merging the schools and consider and any issues that might arise, during that process.

1. What do you understand by the idea of a 'faith school' and how would this be distinctive?

### CoFE Vision

vision for education - not just Church schools

'educational excellence everywhere for everyone'

'life in all its fullness'

'hospitable to diversity, respects freedom of religion and belief and encourages others to contribute from the depths of their own understandings and traditions'

'a settlement ... for the common good'

'deeply Christian in its inspiration and healthily plural in its operation'

'we want the wisdom of such engagements [with those from variety of continents, cultures, races, sexual orientations, backgrounds and academic disciplines] to nourish education in our schools'

'Church schools *and others with which the church is involved* provide the opportunity to set out this vision.'

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'

'These schools are also highly varied in their inspiration and practices, which encourages our commitment to the system's healthy diversity.'

### Fruits of the Spirit

need to be open to disagreement

character education - relationships, whole-school approach and pedagogy

Church is involved in education because of its commitment to development of whole person (spiritual, moral, intellectual & academic)

a 'life-enhancing encounter' with Christian faith

importance of developing reflective wisdom (as well as good habits)

distinction between 'performance character' (aids acad performance) and 'moral character' (prosocial and epistemic)

valued attributes in Paul's letters (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,, gentleness and self-control)

lists of attributes ought to be seen as exemplifying the relationship with God

case study - 'faith journeys'

development of 'full range' of human qualities

Christian-ethos schools can promote the autonomy of their students in matters of religion

'Character education is not about promoting the ideals of a particular moral system, Rather it aims at the promotion of a core set of universally acknowledged (cosmopolitan) virtues and values.'

Search for inter-subjective - not objective - agreement - finding ways for

people to disagree well

How do those of other faiths and no faith work in a Christian ethos?

School of a religious character but that is openly inclusive - warm fires and open doors

Bishop Bridgeman school - 80% of students from different faiths but lauded for its development of ethos

**'a fellowship and community which gives individuals scope to fully be themselves'**

2. What would be the advantages/disadvantages of a merger?
3. If desired, how should the merger be operationalized?
4. What issues would need to be addressed?
5. Next steps?

### Co-location Discussions

<b>DEC Queries</b>	<b>Headteacher Queries</b>
Entrance to school-different one for ST?	Shared policies as well as school specific ones-H&S, Behaviour
Office location-shared or located at ST end?	Delineate Operational and Strategic school specific duties.
Storage for ST resources-curriculum, aspects etc	Whole school timetabling-PE, music, assemblies etc
Biz Hub-sharing or separate? Separate phone line	Coordination of the school year-events, parents eves etc (joint and separate)
Kitchen staff-duplication of roles?	Opportunity for joint working on SDP
Furniture-will ST bring own? If new, will it be new for whole site?	Revising safeguarding on site-eg Fire Evac
Same Link Advisor?	Leadership structure regarding site responsibilities are clear
Duplication of role-caretaker, cleaners.	Joint ST/Valla projects / events.
Decking area-H&S hazard.	
School signage	
Car parking-ensure safety of staff car park.	
Presentation of proposals to parents-consultation?	
Ensuring school building is fit for a "launch"-redecorating, toilets etc.	
Outdoor learning space for TS during lesson times.	
Whatever redecoration is done in ST must be equaled in Valla	

What needs to happen

1. The toilet facilities- foundation stage - they would need altering/ not enough toilet space?
2. Foundation stage playground?
3. Wet area is not big enough - could it be expanded? - How can 4 classes of different age groups share one wet area?
4. Offices for Head and admin?- Where would these be within the confines of that space?
5. Storage - a big issue from what I can see.
6. Areas for the children to study independently.- I would want to see all learning styles catered for.
7. Display space - within that area does not seem enough for the displays I would like to see happen. I am big on interactive whole school display.
8. Library
9. Hall - I am still unsure about sharing hall.
10. Entrance to the school to make it separate from Vallajeelt.

I feel that it would be too much to expect 72 children ( 23 or more of them Foundation Stage /year 1 ) to be in the same space. Ideally I think we should have the whole of the extension. Then we could have the school as a separate entity and a hall with two of the classrooms.

## Relocation of St Thomas School

Issues raised following a site visit on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

	Description	Who is involved	Action to be taken
<b>Identity &amp; Ethos</b>	As a 'new' school intended to be seen as a Diocesan School rather than a Parochial, the opportunity should be taken to consider 'rebranding'	Governors & Head of St Thomas DOEC	
	A separate entrance/reception should be considered a priority in order to re-enforce distinction within in the 'campus' and to give a sense of individuality for the two schools, whilst helping to maintain parental choice and perception.	DOEC DOI Head of St Thomas Governors?	
<b>Governance</b>	As a 'new' school the current governing body might continue as a transitional Governing Body. Consideration should be given to ending the historic link with St Thomas Parish in order to establish with diocesan representation that offers the potential to draw on a wider pool of experience and knowledge.	DOEC Head of St Thomas Governors Diocesan Secretary & Registry	
	A memorandum of understanding or foundation document should be drafted outlining the status of the new school and it's relationship with the Department of Education, the Diocese and Vallajeelt.	DOEC Diocesan Secretary & Registrar Diocesan School's Officer	
<b>Management of site</b>	The distribution of dedicated space should better reflect the pupil ratio of each school community at the point of opening. For example based on the current numbers on roll, St Thomas should be offered one third share of the dedicated space, with Vallajeelt occupying a two third share. <i>Dedicated space is that space which will not generally be shared for example classrooms,</i>	DOEC Head of St Thomas Head of Vallajeelt	



	<i>individual storage space and administration facilities.</i>		
	Arrangements should be made for managing shared space (sports hall, assembly hall, dining hall, library, music room etc).	DOEC Head of St Thomas Head of Vallajeelt	
	Agreements should be made regarding any new joint shared facilities. For example, should a woodland classroom be developed the design of this ought to consider the ethos and foundation of both schools.	DOEC Head of St Thomas Head of Vallajeelt	
	Careful thought needs to be given to how the shared areas might reflect the ethos and foundation of both school communities. For example, the Church of England expects that symbols of faith would be visible, whilst Vallajeelt should also be able to remain secular if that reflects the foundation of that school community. <i>This might be done through different coloured backing paper or borders which identify the contribution of each school community to the shared physical context.</i>	Head teachers & Governors	
	It is assumed that the dining facilities will be shared and that as the school is currently under capacity these are sufficient for the whole community to gather at the same time for lunch times. If this correct?	Head Teachers	
	Access to playgrounds – should we encourage as much social interaction as possible between the two communities, and do specific areas (like the Foundation Stage playground) need enlargement or reconfiguring to allow a <i>slightly</i> larger cohort.	Head Teachers	



**The Parish of Malew and Santan**  
The Abbey Church Ballasalla - St Lupus Kirk Malew  
St Mark's St Marks - St Sanctain Santan

On behalf of the Diocese of Sodor and Man

Prof R Barr,  
Chief Executive Officer  
Department of Education and Children  
Hamilton House  
Douglas  
IM1 5EZ

9<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Professor Barr,

Thank you for your letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> April, addressed to the Rev'd James McGowan, concerning the proposed co-location of the existing St Thomas School on the Vallajeelt site.

After a number of years of conversation in which a number of options have been explored, we support the proposal to co-locate the Church of England Primary school on the Valljeelt site, whilst remaining as a separate school, recognising that this option offers a great opportunity for current and future students.

We recognise that there are many details to agree. A summary of these has been shared with Mr Geoff Moorcroft and we are aware that the Department are in the process of organising further meetings to explore these in the very near future.

The Diocese of Sodor and Man acknowledges the investment of time and resources that the Isle of Man Government and the Department of Education are committing to creating a new future for the Island's only remaining Church of England Primary School and we will do all we can to assist in this period of transition.

Yours sincerely,

**Revd James McGowan**

Malew Vicarage - Crossag Road - Ballasalla - Isle of Man - IM9 3EF  
(T) 01624 822469 (M) 07624 488008 (E) vicar@malewandsantan.im

# Department of Education and Children

*Rheynn Ynsee as Paitchyn*

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Ronald Barr**

**Geoff Moorcroft**  
**Director of Education**  
Education Improvement Service  
Department of Education and Children  
Hamilton House, Peel Road, Douglas  
Isle of Man, IM1 5EZ

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Direct Dial No: (01624) 693834  
Mobile: (07624) 460341  
Fax: (01624) 686633  
Website: [www.gov.im](http://www.gov.im)

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Re: Co-location St Thomas' and Scoill Vallajeelt**

The Department of Education and Children has arranged for officers to meet with parents/carers of pupils at St Thomas's CE School and Scoill Vallajeelt on 19th June at 16.30 (St Thomas's) and 21st June (Scoill Vallajeelt) to discuss co-locating both schools on the existing Scoill Vallajeelt site, as from Sept 2018.

### **St Thomas's**

St Thomas's CE Primary School is the only Church of England school on the Isle of Man and was opened in 1870. The main building dates from 1875, with an extension having been added in the 1930s. The library was refurbished six years ago but is not ideally sited. The main playground is on top of a shop and there are two other, smaller, playgrounds. There are no suitable facilities on-site to meet the requirements of the physical education curriculum so the school makes use of the National Sports Centre. Classrooms are on several floors and limit the flexible use of space. There is only a single, relatively small school hall which accommodates a range of activities including school meals at lunch time. The school has a permanent capacity for 50 pupils, with 72 predicted for September 17, accommodated in part in a mobile classroom, separate from the main school building.

### **Scoill Vallajeelt**

Scoill Vallajeelt opened in 1992 and originally accommodated 142 pupils. As numbers at the school grew, its accommodation required expansion to address significant overcrowding at the school, at the time, and a large extension was added in 2007. However, since this scheme was completed, the roll has dropped significantly as the age profile of parents and pupils has grown and apparently not been augmented by new young families coming into the area. The school has a permanent capacity for 350 pupils with 192 predicted for September 17, meaning it could easily accommodate the 72 St Thomas's pupils.

### **Co-location**

The Department is committed to providing effective and appropriate accommodation for pupils in all of its schools, whilst making best use its resources. After much consideration, it has been agreed that co-locating St Thomas's and Scoill Vallajeelt on the same site is in the best interest for the children's education.

### **Benefits**

Importantly the move to the existing Scoill Vallajeelt site would enable St Thomas' pupils to have everyday access to more modern facilities including a separate dedicated sports hall, a purpose-built dining room, a large field, with extensive landscaped areas and open, flexible classroom spaces, enabling classes to work together more readily. There would be additional opportunities for pupils to mix socially with a wider range of peers and opportunities for staff to work together occasionally to share expertise. From time to time joint events (visiting drama

groups, professional development, World Book Day etc) could be joint-funded and planned for both schools. There would be some relatively small cost savings with the co-location of the two schools because of the removal of utility and upkeep costs for the current St Thomas' building.

The school community at Scoill Vallajeelt would see little impact of the change and the school would continue to run as it has done.

### **How would it work practically?**

The finer details of how the schools would function on a day-to-day basis have not been finalised and would probably fall to the two headteachers to organise. However, a number of broad principles have been agreed.

The schools would continue to function as two separate entities, with two headteachers, two Governing Bodies, two curricula and with each having a different character or ethos. The distinct policies, systems and procedures of each school would continue, allowing those parents/carers of pupils seeking a Church of England-based education on the Isle of Man to have that choice.

Over time, it is hoped that the schools could benefit from being such close neighbours, sharing some resources such as a staff room, and providing a model of tolerance and friendship, where a faith school co-exists alongside a secular one. The proposal is supported by the Church of England and representatives of the Diocese.

### **Timeline**

The intention would be for St Thomas' to re-locate to the Scoill Vallajeelt site before the start of the 2018-19 academic year. Announcing the intention this early will allow any parents/carers hoping to register pupils at the schools for Sept 18 to be fully aware of the Department's plans and for the headteachers and the Department to plan in detail for the co-location.

The officers of the Department look forward to meeting with parents and carers of pupils at the schools at the meetings.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Moorcroft  
**Director of Education**

Welcome and introductions

- myself
- Ronald Barr
- Clare Manser
- Denise Lyon

Here to **propose the idea** of co-locating St Thomas' and Scoill Vallajeelt on the current Scoill Vallajeelt campus, as from **Sept 18**.

Aims

- prioritise the **pupils' experiences** and provide high-quality learning environments for pupils
- strengthen **partnerships** and collaborative working between schools
- continue to provide the **option of a CofE** based education for parents, should they wish it
- provide a **model of friendship** between a secular and a faith school
- make **best use of accommodation** across Department

Inadequacies of current St Thomas' site

- main **playground** on top of a shop
- two other, smaller, playgrounds
- no suitable facilities for PE (so use of NSC)
- **classrooms** are on several floors limit flexible use of space
- only a **single school hall** for a range of activities including school meals at lunch time, PE, meetings, breakfast club, games and activities, assembly
- library not ideally sited
- school - permanent capacity = 50 pupils
- current 72 accommodated in mobile classroom, separate from the main school building.

Opportunities of Scoill Vallajeelt site

- opened in 1992 and originally accommodated 142 pupils
- large extension was added in 2005
- has a permanent capacity for 350 pupils with 192 predicted for September 17, meaning it could easily accommodate the 72 St Thomas's pupils
- small cost savings (removal of utility and upkeep costs for the current St Thomas's building)
- everyday access to more modern facilities including:-
  - a **sports** hall
  - **separate dining room**
  - open, flexible **classroom** spaces
  - large **field**
- opportunity for dialogue across schools
- opportunity to share some resources
- opportunity, on occasion, for joint activity where beneficial

How would work?

- still some finer detail to work through, but ...

- both schools would continue to exist as separate entities -
- essentially both schools would retain ethos, traditions and structures that currently exist
- 2 names
- 2 uniforms
- 2 headteachers
- 2 separate Governing Bodies
- 2 separate budgets
- 2 separate staffing structures
- 2 separate improvement plans
- separate events
- separate policies (eg H&S)

Timeline

Any Questions?

#### **Where**

- not definitively agreed but would be a distinct site, allowing St T's for classrooms to be independent of Vallajeelt
- St Thomas will have it's own space within the building
- opportunities for the children to share spaces such as outside areas , sports facilities and hall for events

#### **What will Vallajeelt lose?**

- \*The use of 4 classrooms

#### **How will Vallajeelt benefit?**

- \*Refresh the infrastructure for the site.
- \*Working partnerships between the 2 schools.
- \*Efficient use of DEC assets for the communities-although it is NOT a cost saving exercise.
- \*Unique opportunities- 2 Heads on one site, collaborative professional partnerships, joint working for some aspects of SIP if needs match, joint CPD possibilities, networking, curriculum opportunities.
- \*Larger social groupings and mixing for the children.
- \*Joint possibilities for extended curriculum- World Book Day, visiting workshops, trips etc. This will be decided on an operational basis by staff.

#### **How will a church school affect Vallajeelt?**

- \*It won't affect the curriculum offer at Vallajeelt.
- \*It's a co-location so the 2 schools will remain distinct.
- \*Strengthen the core values and ethos that the schools are built on.

#### **What happens if the NOR increase?**

- \*There is still enough space on site and the accommodation can be used creatively.
- \*Vallajeelt has had a stable roll for at least 5 years.
- \*St Thomas's manage their enrolment through their Admissions Policy.

#### **Will their be DEC job losses?**

- \*There are no plans to reduce DEC staff.

#### **Will St Thomas lose its links with the church in town?**

The history and tradition of this association needs to be valued and respected, but discussions will take place with the church and the Governors about whether this allows the school to serve the whole Diocese better than it might if it were associated with a single church.

**I sent my child to a Church of England school because I don't want them to have a secular education**

- the school will function as it does now, but in another building. The curriculum will be the same as it is now based on the Essentials for learning Philosophy
- ethos of the school and the development of the Christian Values will underpin everything that happens in the school and will not change in a different building, in fact there will be more space to develop this ethos. . - there may be times when the children at St Thomas are interacting with Vallajeelt children, this is a good thing as it promotes tolerance and an acceptance of each other's differences.

**But my parents and grandparents went to St Thomas school? How can you do this, it is a lovely family school with tradition and the building is old but we love it.**

- St Thomas school building does not serve the needs of a 21st education. It is an old building that is cramped and small.( could elaborate)
- at Vallajeelt site, children can access so much more facilities that will enhance their education further. - sports, outdoor areas, better library
- not mean the end of St Thomas, just a relocation.
- traditions and history of the school will never be forgotten and this can be reflected in all kinds of ways, e.g Pictures on the walls.

**Will the children in Vallajeelt be working with our children? Does this mean merger?**

- both school will work as separate entities within one site. This will be important initially as St Thomas will want to create its identity on the site
- there will be separate classrooms for all the children in both schools, but it would be good to think that children perhaps could come together for events such as Red nose day, healthy week, etc.

Department of Education and Children

## **Co-location Meeting**

St Thomas' - Mon 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Scoil Vallajeelt – Wed 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017



# Department Proposal

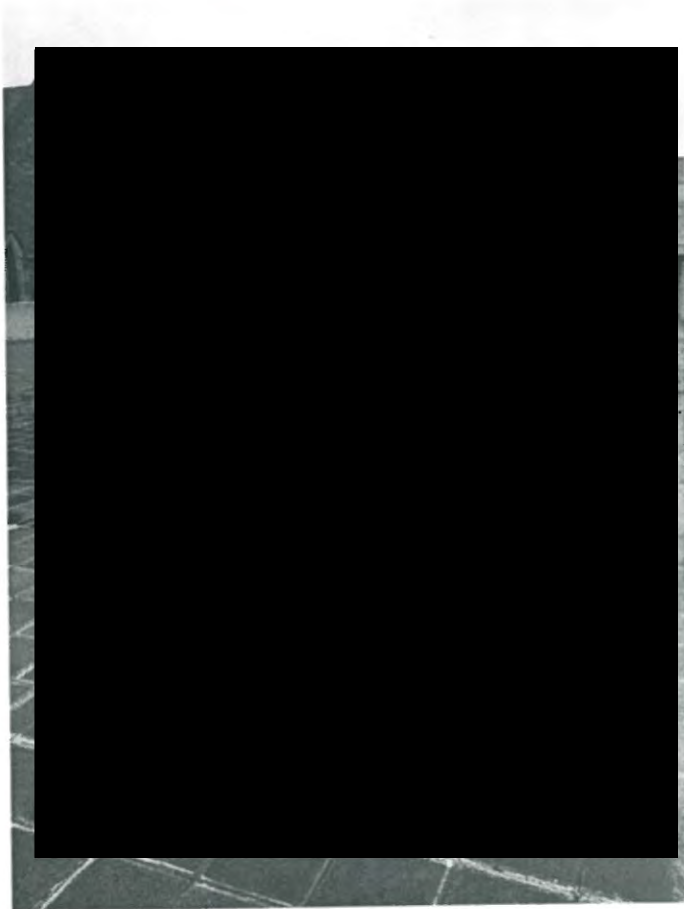
- As from Sept 2018, to co-locate both St Thomas' CE Primary and Scoil Vallajeelt on the current Vallajeelt campus.



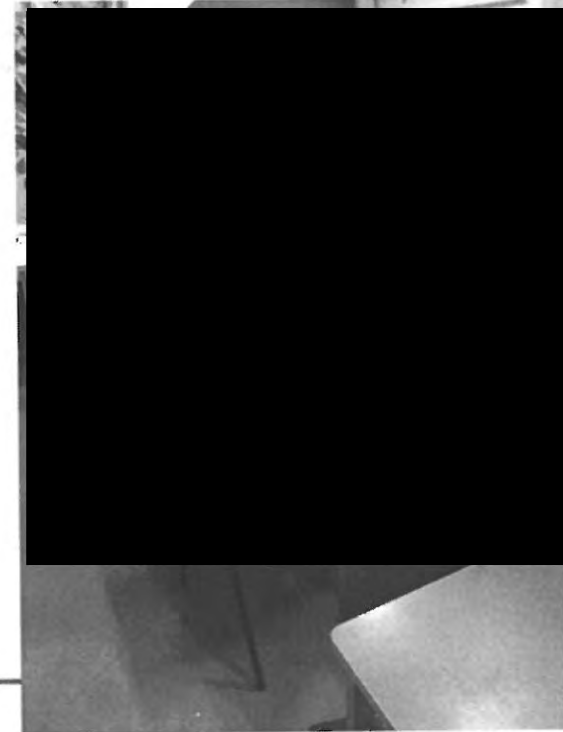
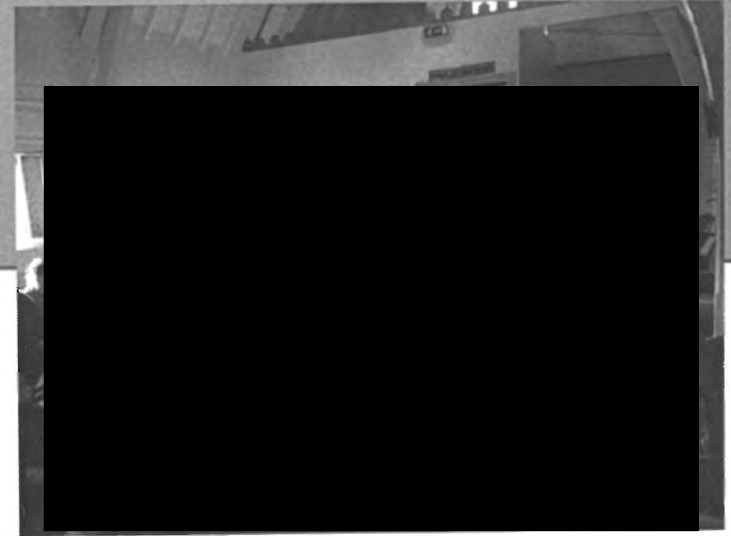
# Aims

- Prioritise the learning experience for children by offering high-quality learning environments
  - Strengthen partnerships and collaborative working between schools
  - Continue to offer a Church of England-based education for those who wish it
  - Provide a model of friendship and tolerance between a secular and a faith community
  - Make best use of accommodation across Department
-

# Current Issues



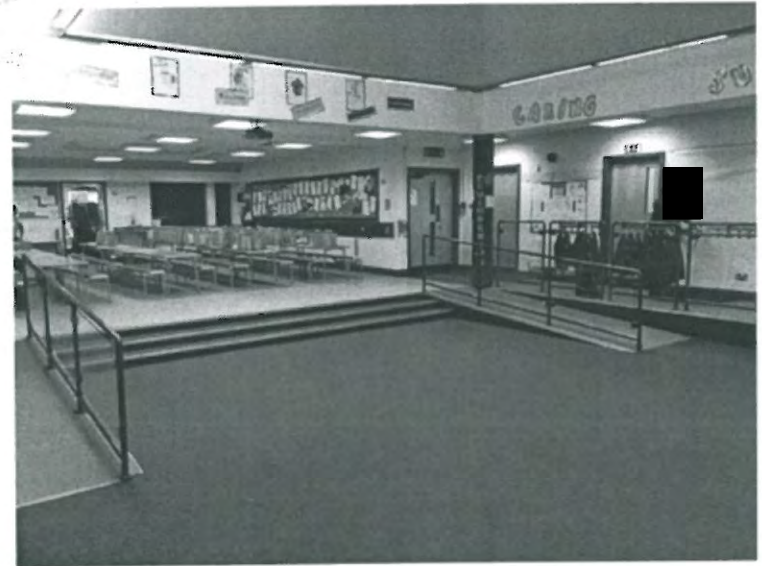
# Current Issues - ctd



# Current Issues ctd



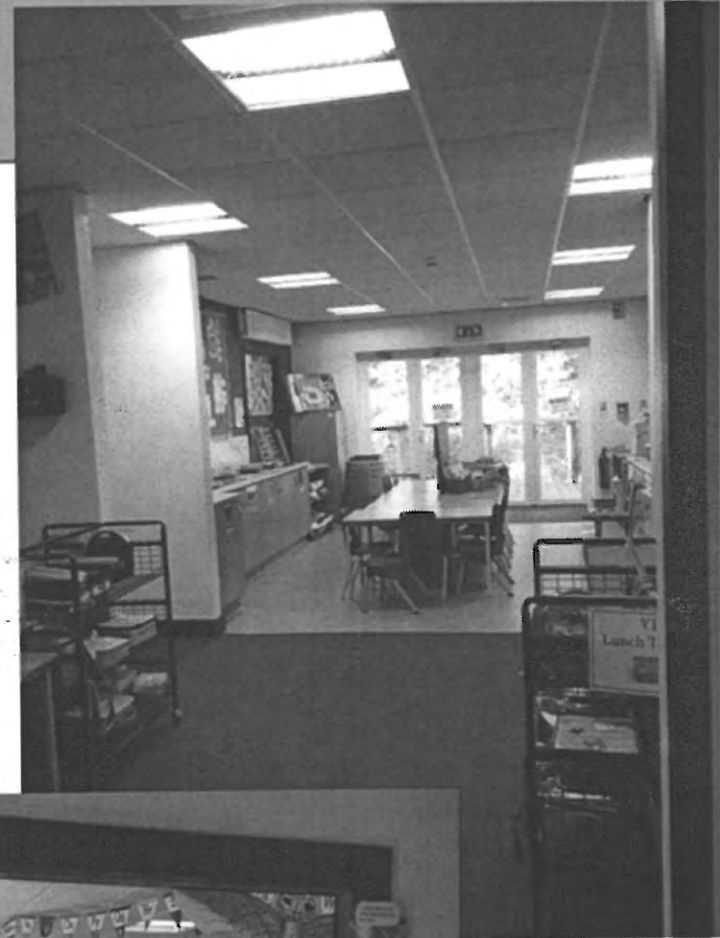
# Opportunities



# Opportunities - ctd

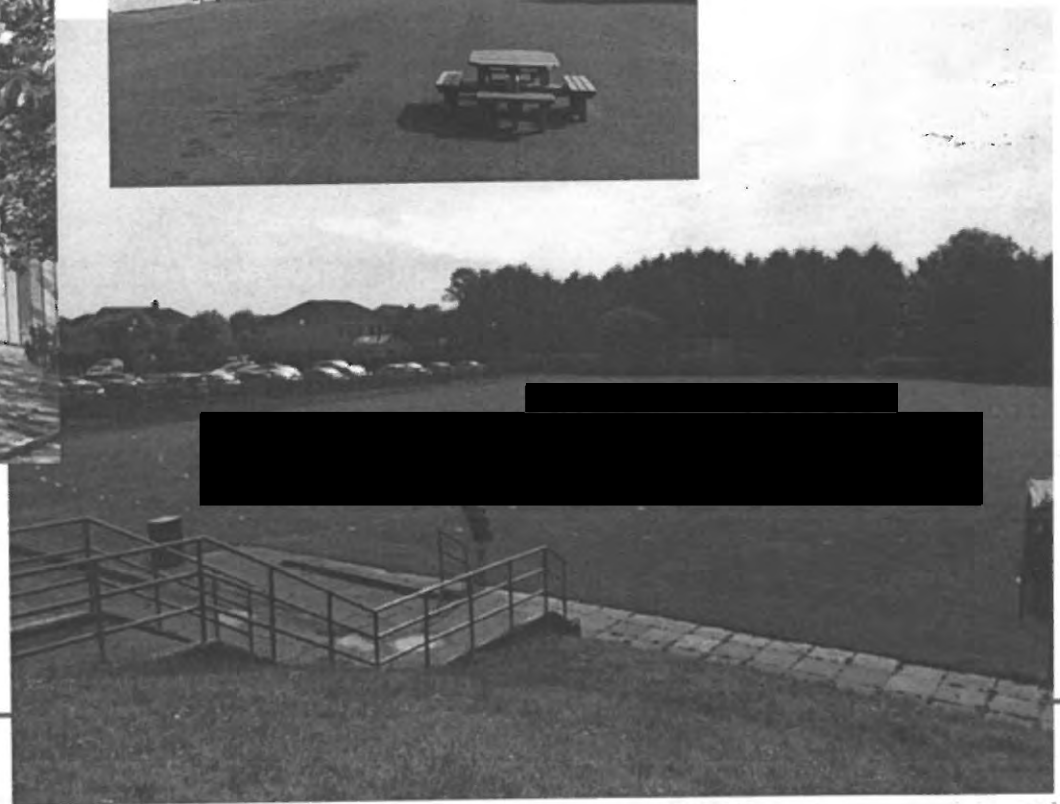
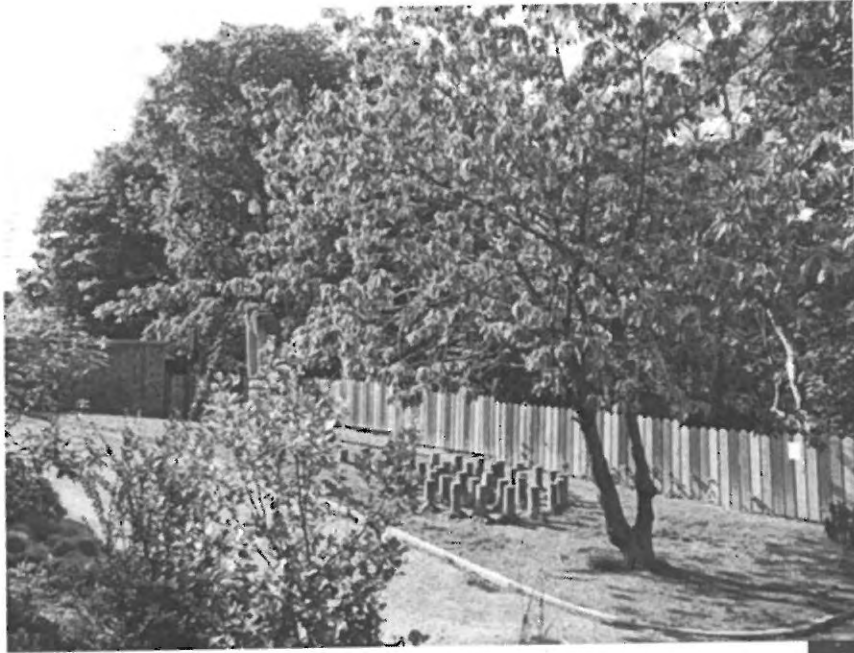


# Opportunities - ctd





# Opportunities - ctd



# Practicalities

- Two school names and identities (eg separate uniforms)
- Separate ethos, tradition, routines and structures
- Two headteachers and Governing Bodies
- Separate budgets
- Separate staffing structures
- Separate Improvement Plans
- Separate events\*
- Separate policies\*

---

\*unless there was benefit to be had from collaboration on these

# Timeline

- June 2017 - explore detail of proposal  
(staff, governors, parents/carers)
  - Sept 2017 - discussions and planning  
- modification and  
refurbishment of the building
  - Sept 2018 - co-location
-

Any Questions?





# News Release

Hamilton House  
Peel Road, Douglas  
Isle of Man, IM1 5EZ  
Tel: 01624 686080  
Mob: 07624 463677  
Email: [jo.overty@gov.im](mailto:jo.overty@gov.im)  
Website: [www.gov.im/education](http://www.gov.im/education)  
Twitter: @iomeducation

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017

## **Parents invited to meeting to discuss school co-location**

Parents are being asked for views about a proposal to move St Thomas' Church of England Primary School to the same site as Scoill Vallajeelt.

Officers from the Department will meet parents from both schools to discuss the proposal, with meetings taking place 4.30pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June at St Thomas' and 4.30pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at Scoill Vallajeelt.

St Thomas' School opened in Finch Road, Douglas, in 1870. Its main building dates back to 1875, with an extension added in the 1930s.

Its largest playground is on top of a shop and, although there are two smaller play areas, there is no green space and no suitable facilities in which to meet the requirements of the physical education curriculum, so the school has to use the National Sports Centre.

Classrooms are over several floors, making flexible learning difficult, while the number of children enrolled will exceed the intended capacity by 22 by this September, meaning mobile classrooms are in use.

The town centre site is surrounded on all sides, making redevelopment or expansion difficult and expensive.

Scoill Vallajeelt opened in Meadow Crescent, Douglas, in 1992, accommodating 142 pupils. As pupil numbers grew, a large extension was added in 2005.

However, the roll has dropped significantly as fewer young families have moved to the catchment area.

The school has a permanent capacity for 350 pupils, with 192 registered for September 2017, meaning it could easily accommodate the 72 St Thomas' pupils.

St Thomas' is the Island's only Church of England school.

If the schools were to co-locate, both would retain their names, identities, headteachers, teachers and governors.

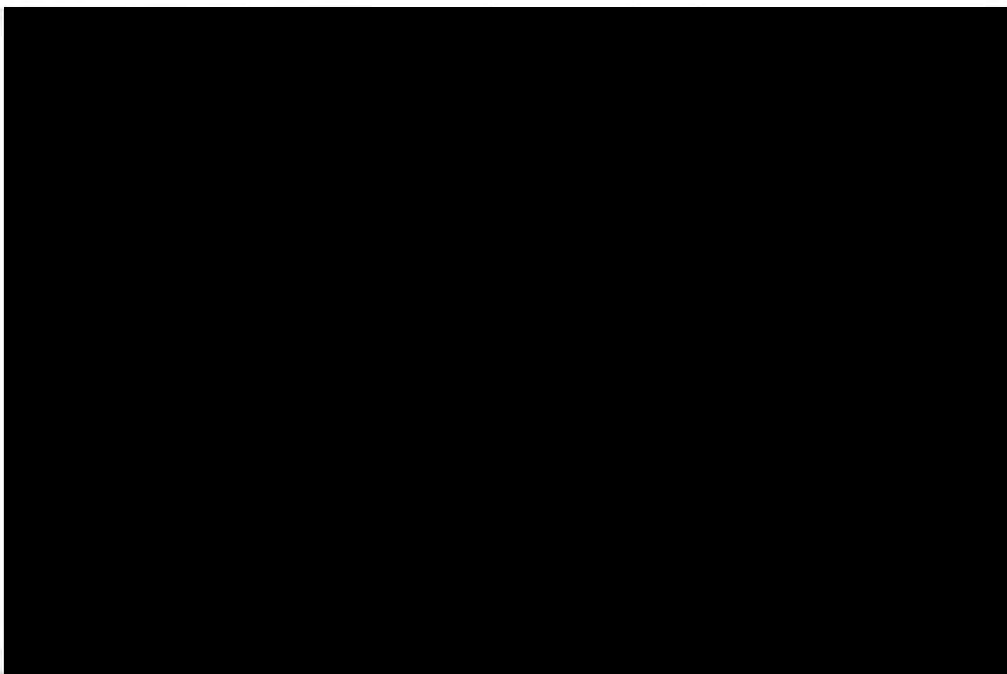
The schools' distinct policies, systems and procedures would continue, allowing parents seeking a Church of England-based education for their child to have that choice. The proposal is supported by the Church of England and representatives of the Diocese.

Graham Cregeen MHK, Minister for Education and Children, said: 'The Department is committed to providing effective and appropriate accommodation for pupils in all its schools while making best use of its resources.

'A move to Scoill Vallajeelt would give St Thomas' pupils access to more modern facilities including a sports hall, dining room, large playing field and, open flexible classroom spaces.

'I hope parents will attend the meeting to share their views and ask any questions they may have.'

The Department of Education and Children envisages the move taking place in time for the start of the 2018/19 academic year.



## Issues to address - Re-designation of Scoill Vallajeelt

### Benefits:-

- new building to accommodate C21st learning
- opportunity to expand two already successful schools
- opportunity to 're-brand' Vallajeelt

### Issues to Consider:-

Brief COMIN and local MHKs

Appointment of headteacher

Staffing (including re-structured leadership team, caretaking and cleaning staff, secretarial staff)

Advance notice to unions

Possible alterations to Vallajeelt building needed?

New legal framework

Governance

Admissions criteria reviewed (Diocesan)

Consultation with wider community (open meeting)

Existing pupils at Vallajeelt

- remain
- remain but opt out of RE lessons
- remain but opt out of RE, assemblies, festivals etc

Name of school

Ethos/Vision

Strategic Plan

Budget/staffing

Policies

Communication systems

Curriculum - align

Assessment systems

Staff Appraisal systems

Induction of new staff/new pupils

Pedagogy

External Validation - delay

Logistics

- costs and removal (DoI?)

- planning for new pupils

Relationships with parents/carers

Process





Jobs Property Buy Photos

Search

M

Home News Sport Letters Columnists What's On Property Motors Advertise Digital Editions Your Areas

# St Thomas's School could move in with Scoill Vallajeelt

8

[Read comments](#)

Thursday, 15 June 2017 By [by Courier reporter newsdesk@iomtoday.co.im](#) Twitter: [@iomnewspapers](#) in [Education](#)

**A primary school in Douglas could soon close.**

Education bosses are proposing that St Thomas's Church of England primary school, which is in the centre of the capital, could move to the same site as Scoill Vallajeelt, which is on the outskirts.

Parents are being asked for views about the proposal.

Officers from the Department of Education and Children will meet parents from both schools to discuss the proposal, with meetings taking place 4.30pm on Monday, June 19, at St Thomas's and 4.30pm on Wednesday June 21, at Scoill Vallajeelt.



St Thomas's Primary School in Douglas

St Thomas's School opened in Finch Road, Douglas, in 1870. Its main building dates back to 1875, with an extension added in the 1930s.

Its largest playground is on top of a shop and, although there are two smaller play areas, there is no green space and no suitable facilities in which to meet the requirements of the physical education curriculum, so the school has to use the National Sports Centre.

Classrooms are over several floors, making flexible learning difficult, while the number of children enrolled will exceed the intended capacity by 22 by this September, meaning mobile classrooms are in use.

The department says the town centre site is surrounded on all sides, making redevelopment or expansion difficult and expensive.

Scoill Vallajeelt opened in Meadow Crescent, Douglas, in 1992, accommodating 142 pupils. As pupil numbers grew, a large extension was added in 2005.

However, the roll has dropped as fewer young families have moved to the catchment area.

The school has a permanent capacity for 350 pupils, with 192 registered for September 2017, meaning it could easily accommodate the 72 St Thomas' pupils.

St Thomas' is the island's only Church of England school.

The department says that if the schools were to co-locate, both would retain their names, identities, headteachers, teachers and governors.

The schools' distinct policies, systems and procedures would continue, allowing parents seeking a Church of England-based education for their child to have that choice.

The proposal is supported by the Church of England and representatives of the diocese.

Graham Cregeen MHK, Minister for Education and Children, said: 'The department is committed to providing effective and appropriate accommodation for pupils in all its schools while making best use of its resources.'



### Find a Job

Start the search for your new

### Weather

Weather updates in your reg

### Support Local

Watch our local news video

### Buy Photos

Order photos from our news

'A move to Scoill Vallajeelt would give St Thomas's pupils access to more modern facilities including a sports hall, dining room, large playing field and open flexible classroom spaces.

'I hope parents will attend the meeting to share their views and ask any questions they may have.'

The department says it envisages the move taking place in time for the start of the 2018/19 academic year.

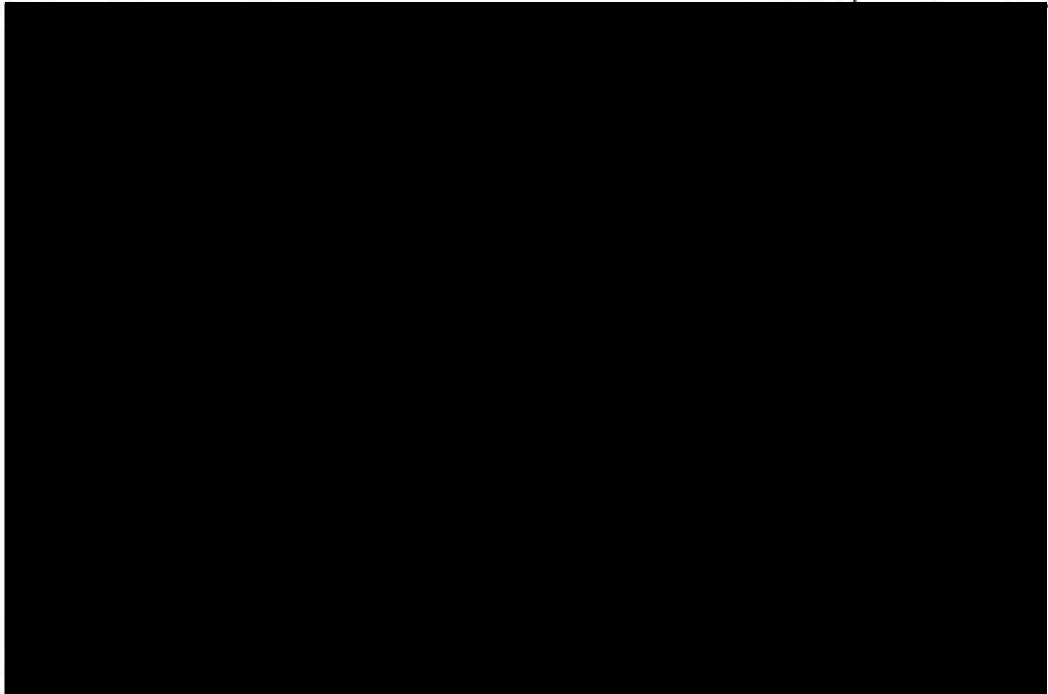
**Share this story**

ADD COMMENT



**8 Comments**

ADD COMMENT





### **School campus scheme offers 'plenty more room'**

Pupils at St Thomas' School in Douglas are moving to a better learning environment at Scoill Vallajeelt - so says the Island's Education minister Graham Cregeen.

His department yesterday (Wed 14) announced it would 'co-locate' the Church of England school to Vallajeelt - both will operate from the same buildings, but independently of each other.

Mr Cregeen says there's more than enough room at the Saddlestone site for both sets of students, with capacity for 350 schoolchildren.

He told Manx Radio the change made sense as it was clear St Thomas' was outdated:

