

Madden

MEMORIES • MILESTONES & MUSIC





Introduction

Madden (also known as Madden Raparees from Irish na Madain)[1][2] is a small village and townland in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. It is within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area. It has a population of around 200 people.[3] (2001 Census: 105 people).Madden (also known as Madden Raparees from Irish na Madain)[1][2] is a small village and townland in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. It is within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area. It has a population of around 200 people.[3] (2001 Census: 105 people).

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Schools In The Area

“Conditions would have been cramped given the numbers of children attending each day (over 50 in some cases with up to 150 on the register).”

St Joseph's Primary School, Madden: A History

Maura & Sara Rafferty

SAINT JOSEPH'S PRIMARY Madden has existed for nearly two hundred years. It was originally called Madden No 1 National School / Elementary School. The name was changed to St Joseph's in 1978. Madden No 2 National/ Elementary School was located on the Madden Road, just opposite the old post office.

St Joseph's is situated at 50 Farnaloy Road. The current school opened in 2011. This replaced the previous one built on the site in 1954. The original Madden No1 School was located a short distance away at 60 Farnaloy Road and closed with the opening of the new one in 1954. Indeed many of the children attending the original school helped to move the furniture just up the road to the new premises. This history relates to the original Madden No 1 School and the new school built in 1954.

The Origins of St Joseph's Primary School

Records pertaining to the stone-built Madden No 1 National/ Elementary School in the townland of Farnaloy date back to Inspector's reports from 1856. It is documented that Madden No 1 was a non-vested school which was taken into connection by the newly established Irish

National Education Board (NEB) on 10th August 1835 (Sch 1510/5/2, Public Records Office Northern Ireland, PRONI). Non vested schools were usually run by independent or religious organisations. However, a schoolhouse building is only described at the 60 Farnaloy Road site from 1860 onwards on Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland Maps (Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland, OSNI, 1846-1862) but it is not on the first OSNI map of 1832-1846. So the building was erected sometime between 1846 and 1860. Where was the school prior to the erection of the building? Either the date the school was taken over by the NEB is inaccurate, or possibly it may have been located elsewhere. It may even have occupied only one room of a building which was not a dedicated School House and thus not described as such on the OSNI 1832-1846 map. Indeed other schools were documented in the district at that time.

The Second Report of the Irish Education Inquiry was a census of all the schools in Ireland in 1826. The Report mentions two schools in existence the Parish of 'Derrinoose'. The school in Madden is likely Madden No 2 school as this was described as a Parish School House (whose building is present on the OSNI map of 1832-1846) and managed by Reverend Dr Stopford. It was a mixed sex school with children from both protestant and catholic denominations attending. It is possible that this school split with the building of Madden No 1 however there is no evidence this is the case.

The second school in the 1826 Report was in the townland of Drumgreenagh and described as a 'tolerably spacious room in a wretched building'. This may have been a 'Hedge School'. Formal education by Catholic institutions was banned in Ireland until 1789 and Hedge Schools had been operating illegally and secretly until that time. Thus there were few dedicated

Catholic run School House buildings in the early nineteenth century. Whether this subsequently became Madden No 1 school is uncertain. It was not connected with any association or documented as being a Parish School. Up to 45 boys and girls from protestant and catholic backgrounds paid to attend and unlike some schools, scriptures from both Catholic (Douay) and Protestant (Authorised) bibles were read to the children. There are no other records pertaining to this and it is not identified on any historical ordnance survey maps of the area probably because it was not a dedicated school building. Consequently, it is unknown how long it existed for.

A third schoolhouse in Derrynoose Parish also existed: this was Kilcreevy School House in the townland of Kilcreevy Etra as described on both the two earliest OSNI historical maps (from 1832 to 1862) but not on any maps thereafter. However, there are no other records relating to it. It was located in the general area of 5 Kilcreevy Road. Similar to the Drumgreenagh School it is not known how long it existed or whether it amalgamated with Madden No 1 School.

School Governance

The NEB's aim was to provide non-denominational, free primary school education for all Irish children. Prior to this, parents paid fees for their children to attend educational establishments that were provided by independent or religious communities (non-vested schools). These schools could now apply for grant aid from the NEB to build and maintain and recruit teaching staff. The National Education Board rules were enforced by Commissioners and Inspectors. Indeed, Madden No 1 School underwent yearly inspections which are documented from 1856 (Sch 1510/5/2, PRONI). Inspections related

to the building and maintenance, accounts, facilities such as availability of books and apparatus, demeanour of children as well as their performance in the 'three Rs' - reading writing, arithmetic, and geography. Boys were also educated in agriculture, while girls were assessed in needlework. In order to maintain a non-denominational status religious instruction was separate and to be taught out of hours. However, a strong reaction by the three main churches who believed that education was a pastoral process and could not be separated from religion, along with the possibility of withdrawal of their schools from the NEB, could potentially have led to a collapse of the newly created system. As a consequence, clergy were permitted to continue to exert control, with schools largely continuing on religious denominational lines. The Priests in Keady were documented as Madden No 1 School Managers in the 1857 Grant Aid application for a Work Mistress (ED/ 1/12/6, PRONI).

Post partition of 1921, the new Northern Ireland Education system again continued along denominational lines, with state schools receiving full funding from the Education Board. A separate partially funded Catholic school system developed simultaneously to promote the catholic ethos with clergy input in the appointment of teachers and building of new establishments.

School Facilities

Madden No 1 School originally consisted of one room which was 16 feet wide, 28 feet long and 12 feet high as evidenced by a grant aid application in 1857 (). Conditions would have been cramped given the numbers of children attending each day (over 50 in some cases with up to 150 on the register). By the time the school

closed in 1954 the building had two rooms and outside toilets. It was heated by sticks in a fire. The internal walls were whitewashed, and managers were responsible for provision of equipment such as desks and books. The inspectors often made recommendations on the condition of the school, following up on them in each year's inspection. For example, in 1857 it was noted that while the school was mostly in good order, the schoolroom required heating and walls needed whitewashing. Indeed by 1902 whilst regular whitewashing had been suggested it was neglected, with inspectors recording that it was 'useless to expect pupils to attend if the room not made comfortable for them' (Sch 1510/5/2, PRONI). It is not clear whose duty it was to whitewash walls. However, provision of equipment was the role of the manager and committee. Representations were made to the manager in 1915 for smaller desks for younger pupils and in 1919 this was still an issue with the 'managers promising to get some of the desks lowered to suit younger pupils' (Folio 75, 7253/969).

Madden School

By Hugh McElvanna

In the old school the toilets were up in the garden. The girls on the left and the boys on the right. There was a single brick wall about 30 feet long and about 4 feet high. One day we had been playing and were not long back in the school when we heard the crash, the whole wall had fallen. That was in 1952 or 53. At that time the teachers were Master Kenny followed by Master Quinn, and the children walked in all weathers. The Hughes' and Rocks' from Lisdrumbrughas. The Smiths', Grays' and McCuskers' from Kilcreevy. The Woods' from Dernalea and the Donnelly's from Tamlet. There were two rooms.

The big room was where Mrs Arthurs taught the infants and Mrs Conlon had the older children. The room next to the road was the Masters room, and he taught pupils up to 14 years. The crates of milk were left on the roadside and in the winter when it would be frozen, Mrs Annie Greene would take it into her house and put it in the oven and on top of the stove. It was a third of a pint and it was a great treat to get the warm milk as it was cold in the classroom with only 3 small fires to heat the whole school which were up beside the teachers.



*Madden No
1 National School / Elementary School*

“One day we had been playing and were not long back in the school when we heard the crash.”

Pupils at Madden No 1 National School Elementary School 1923



Back Row: *Pat Mallon James Morgan, Tom McCusker, John Loughlin, James McKenny, James Connelly, Harry McElvanna, Joe McGil, Pat Mallon, Tom McCallagh, Barney Grimley.*

Front Row: *John Grimley, John McElvanna, Harry Grimley, Patrick Smyth, Denis McArdle, Pat Hughes, Terry McArdle, William Hughes, Frankie McElvanna, Teacher Miss Mallon.*

The new school built in mid 50s (along with the schools at Derrynoose and Carrickaduff) was primarily funded by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Education. The Parish of Derrynoose provided a third of the cost of the building in order to maintain the Catholic ethos of the School and Clergy representation in the Management Committee which later became known as the Board of Governors. The Education (Northern Ireland) Act of 1947 increased state funding of Catholic Maintained Schools increased from 50% to 65%. Despite this there were no State representatives on the Board of Governors. Compared with the old school the new one had modern facilities. It contained three classrooms each with its own storeroom, teacher staffroom (later converted to an office) inside toilets for boys, girls and teachers, cloakrooms, a small kitchen (which became the new staffroom) cleaner's storeroom and the central heating, initially by furnace burning solid fuel, and later changed to oil. There was also an assembly hall/ dining hall. The new kitchen was added in the 60s with school meals being provided which initially were free. Pupils continued to receive one third of a pint of milk daily which had begun in the old school. Staff included teachers, caretaker and cleaner and eventually kitchen personnel. The school had large grounds including a carpark, tarmac and grass areas for safe play. Two mobile classrooms were erected in the 1980s to accommodate increased numbers of pupils as demand increased for places.

Teaching Staff

There were five Catholic training colleges in Ireland by the 1800s, three of which were for women. The Inspector's observation book in the first few decades of the 1900s notes that Madden No 1 teachers attended training colleges

such as St Mary's Belfast (female only college), St Patrick's College, Drumcondra and De La Salle Waterford (both male colleges). Some teachers in Madden were trained as far afield as Craiglockhart, Edinburgh (female catholic training college) and Strawberry Hill in Middlesex. Teachers in Madden No 1 School were appointed by the manager and committee. Some may have been from the locality and there was the option of nearby accommodation supplied by the manager and committee. Whether there was accommodation for both male and female teachers is uncertain. Inspectors noted in 1904 that the Boys teacher's residence was sanctioned for occupation by the female teacher but only as a provisional arrangement. She would have to give up immediate possession of the dwelling whenever desired by those in charge. Presumably this tenure was just until a new boy's teacher could be found as the previous post holder had been sacked by the

manager due to unsatisfactory performance. Inspector notes from the preceeding years had reported poor teaching standards producing very bad to middling or fair proficiency in pupils. Recommendations from the Inspectors had not been acted on. For example, in 1903, on calling to the school the inspector noted that the male teacher was 'eating a large piece of bread' and pupils were 'quite unoccupied'. The attendance record was poor with some absent pupils marked as present. By 1910, the school was 'progressing satisfactorily' (Folio 75, 7253/969, PRONI).

There were two to three teachers in the original Madden No 1 School. Accommodation in the new 1954 school was for three teachers. The number of teaching staff grew in the late 1950s with the dining room used as a classroom. Eventually this rose to six in addition to classroom assistants along with visiting, part time teachers supplied from the Southern Education and Library Board.



St Joseph's New P.S - built in 1954

Children Attending School

Boys and girls were educated separately and often referred to as Madden Boys School and Madden Girls School. Amalgamation was recommended by inspectors in 1919 with a new building 'desirable' but not absolutely necessary (Folio 75, 7253/969). This recommendation eventually occurred on the 1st July 1933. Inspections in intervening years had recorded managers objections to the amalgamation although it is unclear why this was the case.

From the 1800s children from the age of 4 to 16 were permitted to attend school. Madden No 1 school was coeducational and, similar to

the present day, children came from townlands such as Drumgreenagh to as far away as Kilcreevy, Tamlaght, Dernalea and Maghery, distances of three or more miles. Many would have experienced hardship in attempting to attend Madden school as they had to walk, often through fields looking for shortcuts. In some cases paths were specially created to make the journey easier. They had to carry with them, food, sticks or coal for the fire and in later years copy books. Others travelled by road, even on horse and cart. As road surfaces improved some may have arrived by bicycle and in later years car. Free transport was available by bus from the 1970s.

It is therefore unsurprising that absenteeism was a feature in the early days of school, with attendance rates varying between pupils. For example, in the 1857 Grant Aid application there were 152 children on the school rolls with an average daily attendance of only 58 and in 1895 attendance among pupils ranged from 109 to 202 days. There were various reasons for this. Unpredictable weather, children needed to work at home during busy periods on the farm or when there was sickness, and they had to care for younger siblings could cause absenteeism. Often school holiday times were dictated by harvest time.

Pupils of Madden Public Elementary School pictured in 1935

The 1947 Education (Northern Ireland) Act made attendance at school compulsory for all children up to the age of 15. This, along with improved transport and better career opportunities for children with an education helped increase daily attendance rates at Madden No1 School to over 85% from that time onwards.



Back Row L-R: *Una Easdale, Mary Grimley, Ellie Moore, Maureen Barrett, Clare McElvanna, Una McElvanna, Anna Grimley and Rose Ann Barrett.*

Second Row L-R: *Lily Smyth, Margaret McKenna, Kitty McArdle, Lily Foster, (two standing behind, Kitty Smyth and Mary Cassidy), Mary C Gorman, Susan McArdle, Maura Donnelly, Nancy McArdle, May Smyth, Mary E Smyth, Clare Mallon, Genevive Loughran, Mary Hughes, Mary Clements, Mary Morgan and Teresa Barrett.*

Front Row L-R: *Bridie Donnelly, May Foster, Lizzie McKenna, Ethna McElvanna, Adie Donnelly, Annie Smyth, Anniei Donnelly, Monica Smyth, Mary Donnelly, Annie Hughes, Josie Barrett, Maureen Grimley, Dolly Smyth, Smyth and Clare Smyth.*

Madden Primary School Circa 1959 / 1960



Back Row L to R:
*Brian Morgan, Gerard Molloy, Marie Morgan,
David Hughes, Patricia Smyth,
Siobhan Morgan*

Front Row L to R:
*Gerard Mallon, Madeleine Grimley, Gerard
Rafferty, John King, Michael McKenna,
Benedict McElvanna*

Curriculum

Curriculum in the 1800s comprised of reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography including map reading, along with needlework, discipline, children's manners, fluency in speech, readiness to answer questions and personal cleanliness. The 1857 Grant Aid application by the Rev Patrick Kelly, School Manager/ Representative for the salary of Work Mistress Rose Barret placed emphasis on the benefits of teaching female pupils sewing, muslin embroidery, knitting, dress and shirtmaking for two hours each school day as a source of fair employment (ED/1/12/6, PRONI). In addition, inspectors often gauged the demeanour of children, for example in 1893 they recommended 'some effort should be made to instruct habits of personal cleanliness and good manners among the pupils! (Sch 1510/5/2, PRONI).

So, the attention was not just on knowledge and skills but included how children conducted themselves as this was just as important in gaining employment.

In 1868 a payment by 'results scheme' was introduced for all national teachers – a proportion of teachers' salaries was dependent on results of examinations by inspectors on the 3 Rs of reading, writing and arithmetic and school attendance of 100 days per pupil. As a consequence, teaching primarily focused on these areas to the detriment of other subjects in the curriculum. This approach was changed in the early 1900s, with inspectors reporting on Madden pupils' ability in singing, needlework, laundry, storytelling, problem solving, penmanship, drawing, and domestic economy and cheerfulness! Catholic religion also had to be taught, and children prepared for reception of the sacraments.

Games were often played outside on the road

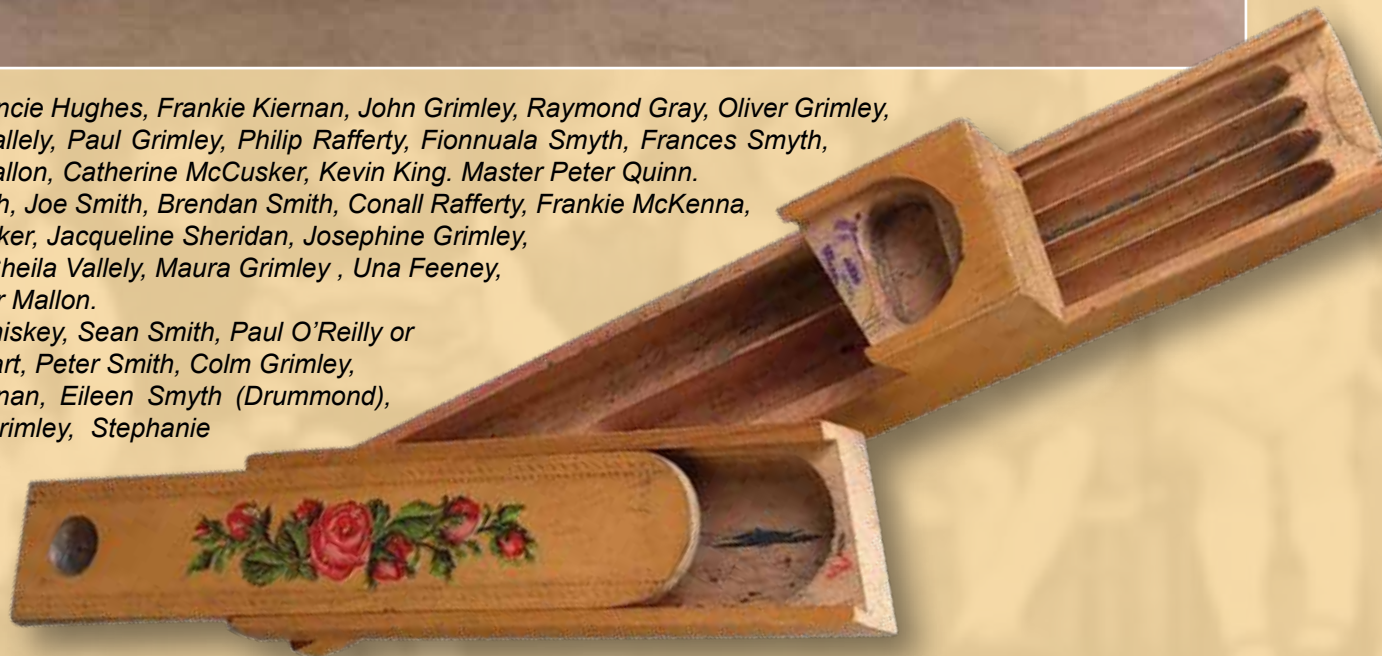
Madden Primary School 1974



Back Row: L-R. Marie Curry, Jim Smith, Francie Hughes, Frankie Kiernan, John Grimley, Raymond Gray, Oliver Grimley, Ann Grimley, Jacqueline Smith, Brendan Vallely, Paul Grimley, Philip Rafferty, Fionnuala Smyth, Frances Smyth, Briege Morgan, Helen Grimley, Rosaleen Mallon, Catherine McCusker, Kevin King. Master Peter Quinn.

Middle Row: L-R. Joan Smyth, Michael Smith, Joe Smith, Brendan Smith, Conall Rafferty, Frankie McKenna, Dermot Grimley, Joan Grimley, Mary McCusker, Jacqueline Sheridan, Josephine Grimley, Yvonne McCusker, Eileen Smith (Bluehill), Sheila Vallely, Maura Grimley, Una Feeney, Margaret Rafferty, Imelda Smyth, Christopher Mallon.

Front Row: L-R. Martin McKenna, Gary Comiskey, Sean Smith, Paul O'Reilly or Damien Smith, Simon Smith, Seamus Taggart, Peter Smith, Colm Grimley, Kevin Grimley, Patrick Hughes, Brian Kiernan, Eileen Smyth (Drummond), Sinead Grimley, Shirley Smith, Noreen Grimley, Stephanie McKeown, Mary Smith, Barry Grimley, Terence Rafferty, Geraldine Rafferty, Dan McKenna, Paul Smyth, Caroline Smyth, Mark Smyth.



including football, hopscotch, marbles and tig. Children brought their own lunch and one third pint of milk which was provided free of charge by the Education Board from the 1930s

From the 1800s right up to the mid-1970s teaching was mostly didactic with teachers standing in front of the class and dictating work using a blackboard, chalk and pointer stick. In the 1800s the supply of books was an important aspect of school standards for teaching. This supply often varied from being satisfactory to being deficient. The Inspector in 1857 recommended the book press door be properly secured with lock and key as the books were 'quite depleted'.

School Leavers

From the early days of Madden No 1 School children are recorded mostly as returning to work on the farm, or going into domestic service, working in a shop, and some emigrated. Many remained in education in Madden No1 School until the age of 14/15 until the 1950s. They also had the option of further education in the technical schools in Keady and Armagh. The 1947 Education Act (Northern Ireland) made provision for free secondary education for children over the age of 11 and free Grammar School places for 25% of children. The 11+ examination was introduced and Madden No1

school children who passed the test had the option of transferring to a grammar school, such as the Christian Brothers, St Patrick's College in Armagh or a convent grammar such as St Louis, Kilkeel, St Michael's Lurgan or St Joseph's Donaghmore.

By 1970 all children in Madden No 1 school age 11 years transferred to a secondary, such as St Patrick's High School Keady or grammar school. At this point free transport was provided by the Education Board. Compared to those attending school in the nineteenth century, a vast range of career opportunities was now open to children.

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Acknowledgement – Armagh Cultural Heritage Service Library



Numbers attending St Joseph's Primary School, Madden over the years

Ryan Mc Parland

With thanks to Cardinal O'Fiaich Library,
Monica Rafferty, Paud Loughran

1899

Madden Boys School- 31 pupils
One teacher – Mr Macklin
Madden Girls School -32 pupils
One teacher- Miss Arthurs

1908

Madden Boys School – 31 pupils
One Teacher – Mr Macklin
Madden Girls School – 32
One teacher – Mrs Arthurs

1917

Madden Boys School – 29 pupils
One Teacher – Mr O'Hare
Madden Girls School – 36 pupils
Teacher- Miss Arthurs

1933

Madden Boys School – 49
Two Teachers
Madden Girls School - 49
Two teachers

1939

Madden Girls and Boys School – 80 pupils.
2 lay teachers – One Master and one female
assistant teacher.

1979

Madden School – 92 pupils
Principal- Mr Peter Quinn

1989

Madden School- 113 pupils
Principal- Mrs Maura Rafferty

1996

Madden School – 145 pupils
4 Class Teachers and Principal -Mr Paud
Loughran

2009

Madden School – 126 pupils
4 Class Teachers and Principal -Mr Loughran

2020

Madden School- 169 pupils
6 Class Teachers, Principal Mr Loughran

2022

Madden School- 181 pupils
7 class teachers and one temporary teacher.
Principal -Mr Loughran



Pupils Circa 1979
(EM to provide names and exact year)

A man of principle and vision is stepping down Principal of St Joseph's PS set to retire after 27 years

by NIAL CROZIER
nial.crozier@ulstergazette.co.uk

THIS week sees the end of the summer term and with it the 2022/23 academic year at schools all over Northern Ireland, St Joseph's PS, Madden being one.

Wednesday, June 28 also marks the end of Mr Paud Loughran's 27-year term as its Principal. In terms of tenure, that's quite a stay in the so-called hot seat.

I say 'so-called' because as he reflected on his lengthy imings in the course of an interview with the Gazette a few days ago, there was nothing to suggest he had ever found the role and responsibility to have been anything other than a privilege and a pleasure.

Retracing his early steps he said, "I started here as a teacher 35 years ago – 1988 – and taught here until 1993 at which stage I went to work for the Curriculum and Advisory Support Service at Clounagh Technology Centre in Portlawn.

"That was about introducing science and technology to what at that time was the new Northern Ireland curriculum and what it involved was going around primary schools in the Southern Board Region."

When he returned to St Joseph's in September '96 it was as the Madden school's new Principal. He was only 30 at the time, so this was a huge display of confidence in his ability, personality and character.

"It has been quite a journey and I'm incredibly proud to have served this community and to have been part of a culture within this school of outstanding teaching and learning," he said.

Lauding his colleagues he continued, "I'm very fortunate to have worked alongside the most committed and dedicated teachers and classroom assistants I could ever have hoped for; they have always gone way beyond the expected norms to provide what could only be described as a truly exceptional education to the children within this community."

When Mr Loughran arrived as Principal, the school size was 120-125 pupils. Now, as he departs, the figure has risen to 181, with every year group now having its own separate provision rather than composite classes.

He explained that by saying, "Probably the highlight for me has been our achievement in obtaining our new school in 2011. It took a considerable amount of lobbying over an eight-year period to get that over the line, but we did it."

Caitriona Ruane was the Minister of Education who finally gave the go-ahead for the new school to begin.

He said, "It was an amazing time and I'll always remember the sense of pride everyone in this community



St Joseph's Primary School, Madden Principal Mr Paud Loughran, who is retiring. KT232402

felt that June day when we had the most amazing opening ceremony.

"That decision gave us the opportunity to provide the next generation of Madden children with this state-of-the-art facility which still looks wonderful 12 years on. It has been fantastic in terms of moving our community forward."

As well as confirming that he is hoping to continue in some as yet unspecified capacity within education a day or two a week, he aims to spend more time with the family... and to reduce his golf handicap.

"Our first grandchild is on the way, so I'm looking forward to that," he said. "As well as that Mary [his wife] and I are going to be doing that California Coast drive, so three weeks in September on the Pacific Coast of America, that will mean a very different start to what I've been used to every September for years."

"And the golf clubs are going to be out a bit more, too," he added. "A lot of my friends have already retired and their handicaps have been coming down quite dramatically, so I don't want to be left behind!"

Now 57, he admits to having "been thinking about retirement for the past couple of years."

"It's a difficult decision because you're leaving friends and colleagues who have been central to my career for the past 35 years," he revealed. "That said, I'm now looking forward to a new chapter in my life. And I know St Joseph's will continue to be the wonderful school it is today because we have appointed our

memorable events.

"We've had traditional nights at the school with music, dance, recitations and they've always been big occasions, too. Knowing how much events like those helped our kids' development means I'll miss all of that as well."

And then, with evident and justifiable pride, he added, "The nature of our school is such that, over the years, we've always managed to showcase what we've been doing when the Inspectorate visited."

"We have had four different inspections here over four different time periods and I would say that we are possibly unique in having been judged 'Outstanding' on each occasion. I'm not aware of any other school here having done that."

"Pastorally we got a letter from an official in the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and I've always held on to that. It read: 'CCMS are frequently striving to have a working definition of Catholic ethos and my definition would simply be, St Joseph's Primary School, Madden'."

"That's quite an accolade – not for me but for a whole team of people working together and, more importantly, leading together. It's a reflection on all the wonderful people involved."

He went on, "I've had incredible staff and a wonderful Board of Governors who, as well as sharing my vision of what an outstanding primary school should be, have always been there to offer guidance and support."

"The same has been true of the community and all the local sports clubs – football, camogie, road bowls – not forgetting our traditional music. All really supportive. To have known that I have always had the backing of parents, staff, governors and all those other groups has been such a help to me. The loyalty and reliability of your community is something very special."

He stressed, "Getting the new school enabled us – and the community – to grow together as a result of having a facility we could share. Many others don't have that."

Asked how he is feeling about his last day he replied, "All things considered I'd imagine I'm going to find it quite emotional. It will take a wee bit of getting used to not being here, because for so many years off-for-summer-back-in-September has been my norm."

"Now, though, I need a new focus – and I think I'm ready to explore one or two fresh avenues and enjoy a little 'me time'."

The 2008 Inspection Report included these words: "The strengths of this school include the inspirational and visionary leadership of the Principal".

And that really says it all.



Mr. Peter Quinn (top row, second from RHS with glasses) has retired as principal of St. Joseph's P.S. Madden, after 28 years. At a function held in the school, before the holidays, he was presented with a number of gifts. From the parents, past pupils and friends he received a colour T.V., traveling baggage from the present pupils, and from the teaching staff, he received an electric razor. The kitchen staff present him with a Waterford crystal vase and Mr. Frank Kelly, on behalf of Keady Credit Union presented Mr. Quinn with a gold watch. Canon Moore made the presentations on behalf of the school. Included in the picture are Mrs. Quinn, their family, Mr. Riley, Father Rice and MacOscar.

PLENTY OF VARIETY IN MADDEN P.S.

Madden Primary School is one of the most progressive in the County. With Principal, Mr. J. Quinn, setting the lead the pupils are encouraged to take an active interest in a variety of subjects outside the normal school curriculum.

There are 105 children on the roll at Madden. The majority of them are in the 8-10 age group. The four teacher school is staffed by Mrs. Rafferty, Mrs. Conlon, Mrs. Arthurs and of course Mr. Quinn.

"The children show a marked enthusiasm for everything they do. It's quite remarkable," said Mr. Quinn. He added that after classes football is very popular. The school playground affords the children plenty of room in which to enjoy themselves to the full.

The school has every modern amenity, including a well-equipped canteen. Here Mrs. Greene and Mrs. Hughes serve lunch every day and generally do a wonderful job in helping to satiate young appetites.



June 2023
Principal Paul Loughran
retires after 27 years at
St Joseph's PS, Madden
In terms of tenure, that's quite
a stay in the hot seat.

Mrs Maura Rafferty (Principal) 1979 to 1996
EM confirm dates and names
along with ? McCusker, ? and Paula Mallon



New Principal from Sept. 2023
Paul Hart



Board of Governors with Representatives from the Education Authority, Contractor, and Minister for Education, pictured at the commencement of the new school building January 2011



Children on site

Back Row. L-R: Canon Michael Crawley, Gerry Lundy (CCMS), name ? QS O'Hare Contractors, Conall Rafferty, Denis O'Neill (?), Joe (?) Brendan Vallely, Ciaran McKenna (?) Jimmy Woods, Pat McAleavey (Principal of Keady High School)

Front Row: L-R: Mary Rafferty, Maura Rafferty (former Principal), Donal Flannagan (CCMS), Caitriona Ruane (Minister of Education), Paud Loughran (Principal), Charles Fanning, Marion Mallon, Martha Smith.

The New School

Pupils moved into the new school building in December 2011

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn





Teachers when Mrs Rafferty was Principal

L-R: Paud Loughran, Gerry Mone (was moving to Middletown PS), Maura Rafferty (Principal), Geraldine Burke, Eileen Curry.



Confirmation Class 1999

L-R Back: Kyle Morgan, Patrick Murtagh, Proinsias Cox, Chris Corr, Enda Mallon

Middle: Daniel Kiernan, Sean Rafferty, Mark Connolly, David McArdle, Joe Feeney, Paul O'Reilly, Colin Mallon

Front: Caoimhe McKenna, Julie Cooney, Angela Clarke, Angela Keenan, Clare Connolly, Mr Loughran

Stories to come in from Maura Rafferty (former) and Paul Hart (Current Principal).

Official Opening of St. Joseph's Primary School

ON THURSDAY 31 MAY 2012 pupils staff and invited guests gathered for the official opening of St. Joseph's Primary School. Having awaited this day for many years there was great excitement in the air.

Invited guests were offered the opportunity to view the completed building whilst Minister for Education, John O'Dowd MLA was given a tour of the building by Principal Mr. Paud Loughran. Guests also enjoyed a traditional music performance by the school Folk group.

Most Rev. Bishop Gerard Clifford then assisted with the planting of a tree to symbolise the opening and continued growth of the school. Minister of Education John O'Dowd officially

opened the school with the help of KS2 pupils Paul Hughes and Geraldine Kernan.

Speaking after the unveiling of the new school plaque, Mr. O'Dowd spoke of the outstanding nature of education in ST. Joseph's Primary School. He identified that the provision of this state of the art Educational facility should ensure continued success for the children and community of Madden in the future.

Following the Address pupils, staff and the wider community attended a mass in St. Joseph's Chapel Madden. The mass which was lead by Most Rev. Bishop Clifford, Canon Crawley, and Fr. Rice was beautiful and was supported by the wonderful performance of the school choir.

After mass guests made their way to Madden Community Centre where they enjoyed a beautiful meal. A series of presentations were made by the P7 pupils to the invited guests including Mr. Jim Clarke Chief Executive of CCMS and Mr. Tony Murphy Chief Executive of the SELB.

The day, which was eagerly awaited by all, proved to be a great success and will be remembered for years to come in the life of our school.

*Courtesy of
Ulster Gazette*



Madden National School

Madden Road

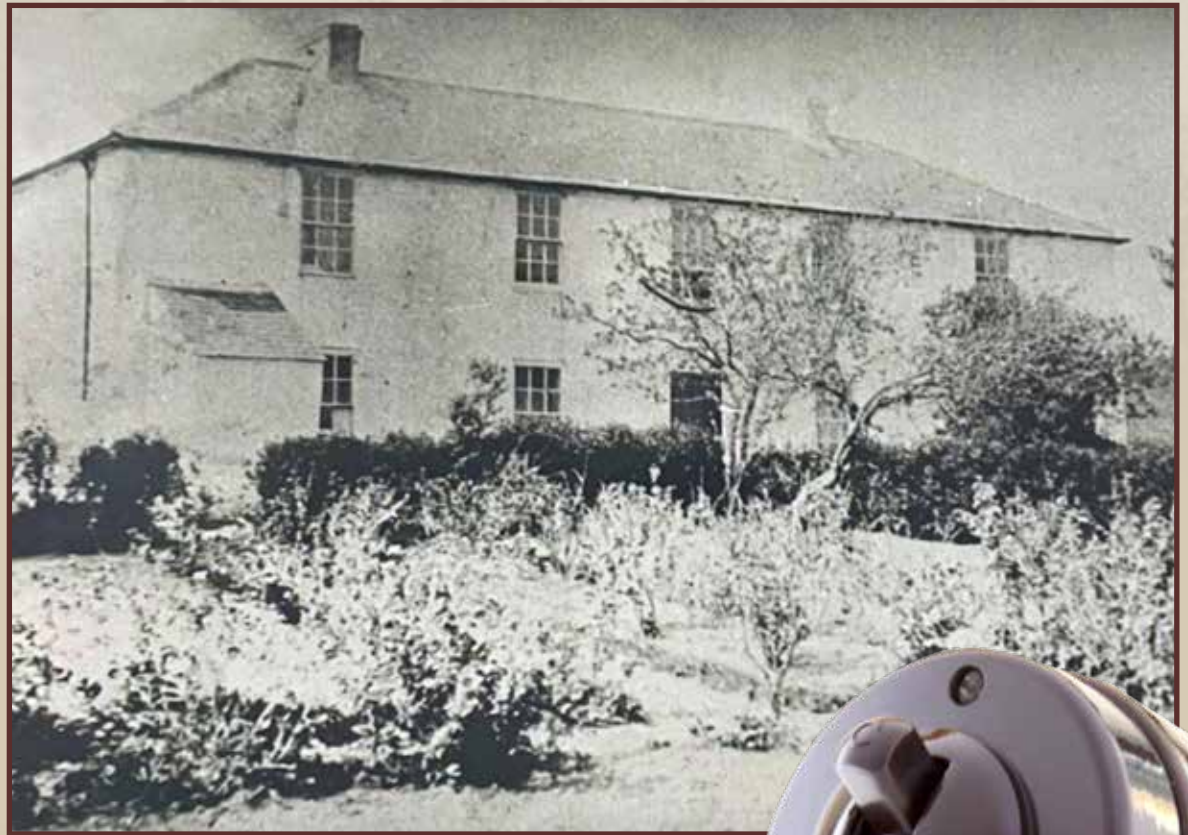
**Mrs Crozier – Last Principal of Madden COI National School
before Closure**

“After lunch a wee
mouse came out
every day to help
itself to crumbs”

THE FIRST STOREY of the school was approached by a slope at the right side, and at the back in the centre was a door and a small inside porch which led into the complete school building. The principal teacher's residence was the complete ground floor.

This was divided in two by a wooden partition. Junior children were taught at the left end and the seniors at the right of this long, large first floor. There were no other facilities within the school. It was heated by two large barrel like stoves which had to be kept alive by fuel from the coal house at the right-hand corner of the ground floor. The senior boys had the job of bringing fuel up when needed.

At the back a straight path led up to a corrugated playing shed and to the left of this was a small unit with double toilets (boys and girls). The staff also used these and the caretaker Mrs Margaret Hawthorne had to clean and wash these toilets with buckets every evening. Lunches were eaten by everyone in the classrooms. In 1956, electricity had been installed and water was available in handbasins in the school porch. After lunch a wee mouse came out every day to help itself to crumbs. Everyone looked out for him!!



*Madden No 2 National/Elementary School
(early 1900's)*



The school was Church of Ireland and was in the parish of Derrynoose. The local clergy came and spent long periods listening to the teacher delivering classes for sometimes up to 60 pupils. Mrs M.J Hughes, mother of the late Mr Freddie Hughes, was well known after retirement as the Postmistress of Madden Post Office. She came from a teacher training college in Dublin to take up the role in Madden School. She lived by herself on the ground floor accommodation of the school until she met and married her farmer husband, she then moved the short distance to his home, just a few yards up the road on the opposite side. Her grandson Mr Colin Hughes still runs that farm.

Mrs Hughes was the lifetime organist of Derrynoose Parish Church (Madden Church of Ireland) and lived to 100 years of age. One day after a service, a birthday party was held for her in the old school building, at which she made an extraordinary speech!

Up until the Armagh Education Committee (later the SELB) took control of the financial upkeep of the school, it was financed by the local church who also owned a field behind the school and its grounds. This was traditional with regards to churches and schools in the parish.

The staff, that I knew of, were Mr Hall from Lisnadill, Mrs Campbell from Keady and a Mrs Burney who lived near Armagh and she gave me a lift to and from school every day after I was appointed as her assistant teacher in 1956. She retired in 1960 so I was then appointed as principal while Miss June Rennick from Killylea became my assistant.

During our time together, we got a radio supplied which meant we could listen to school programmes. We introduced the annual nativity play and also the first ever school trip when we went to Belfast. We had a special inspection of the cross-channel ferry called the "Ulster Prince"

and visited the zoo. Imagine how Miss Rennick and I felt when three girls ran down a slope at the zoo, fell and Daphne Harrison broke her arm?

*Hughes Family
Home and Post Office*



First School Trip 1960's



Row 1: Eric Armstrong, Sandra Ross, Shirley Hill, William Bradshaw
Row 2: Miss Rennick, Helen Gibson, Glynis McCaul, Daphne Harrison, Audrey Hughes, Dorothy Hawthorne.
Row 3: Mervyn Ross, Office of "Ulster Prince" ferry, Desmond Ross, Ann Armstrong, Hazel McCaul, Vera Gibson, Mrs Crozier.

An item of interest in the school was a very large grand piano, which we used for our music lessons. We made play areas and a “wee house” for the youngest pupils in primary one to three. We were very happy and enjoyed teaching. Miss Rennick had specialised in a religious education course and went to teach in Armagh Secondary School, so I had various temporary assistants until 1970 when Middletown, Lislea and Madden schools closed and amalgamated into the new school at Drumhillery. Many of the Madden pupils still keep in touch with me, for which I am grateful. All the students were a pleasure to teach and ended up with excellent occupations such as teachers, secretaries, accountants, bank managers etc. One girl, Ann Armstrong (Mrs Jim Thompson) sadly deceased, as is her brother Eric, was awarded an MBE from her Majesty the Queen for her work in Musgrave Hospital specialising in Orthopaedics. Ann’s brother John is still living in the Madden area.

This rural school gave great service to the Madden area. A Mr Marshall from America came to visit the school as he had been a pupil there. He was related to Mr Stanley Marshall who owned a shop in Scotch Street Armagh but had great affection for his Irish roots.

After qualifying as a teacher, Madden school was my first permanent post and I believe I gained excellent experience, in teaching primary one to primary four, all subjects and needle work to the senior girls.



Row 1 sitting: Joe Straghan, Mervyn Ross
 Row 2: Hilary Tecey, ???? McCall, Daphne Harrison, Audrey Hughes, Dorothy Hawthorne, Glynis McCall, Heather Morton, Robert Straghan, Brian Morton.
 Row 3: Brian Hawthorne, Vera Gibson, Winnie Straghan, May McCall, Mildred Keenan, Velma Ross, Hazel McCall, Ann Armstrong, Helen Gibson
 Row 4: Desmond Ross, John Armstrong, Jim Straghan, Oscar McCall, George Glasgow, Bobbin Jenkinson, Ivan McCall, Alan Gibson, Desmond Gibson.

Photos requested from COI Group on P1 class of 2024 / confirmation class, or other pics

Commemorative plaque at the entrance to the Old School House
 Donated by Mrs Hughes to commemorate her 100th Birthday, 1985



The School and Doctors Surgery in Kilcreevy

Told by : Tom Lyons , Stephen Mc Kenna
Written by : Ryan Mc Parland

Brootally Crossroads was formerly known as Drumcoulter Crossroads in days gone by. There was an old school at the beginning of the Kilcreevy Road known as Drumcoulter School which provided local Protestant children with a primary education. The school was located in a side room of the farmhouse in the centre of the Lyons family farm and is still lived in to this day. It is not known when Drumcoulter School closed, but we know it was prior to the 1940s.

The Doctor from Tynan also held a weekly surgery every Wednesday in the same building. Births could be registered here, or the father of the child could cycle to Tynan on another day for that purpose. We believe the surgery ran until the late 1890s or early 1900s.

School Appointments

Ryan McParland

To the right is a letter from former Parish Priest Canon Joseph Pentony to Cardinal John D'Alton concerning appointments of teaching staff in Madden, Derrynoose and Drumherney Schools. This illustrates a very different process in the assigning of teaching staff to schools compared to what the process is today. Some of the older generation of Madden may even have been taught by some of the teachers named in the letter.

The Cardinal O'Fiaich Memorial Library where the letter is archived kindly let us publish it.

Parochial House,
Healy,
Co. Sligo
June 30th 1957?

May it please your Eminence,

The average on rolls in Derrynoose Primary School warrants the appointment of a third Assistant Teacher. This has been confirmed by the Ministry of Education who are prepared to sanction an appointment as from 1st Aug. 1958.

Miss Margaret Mary McKenna, Assistant Teacher in Drumherney School, has applied for the position in Derrynoose, where her sister, Miss Rose Anne McKenna is at present teaching.

I think it would be hard to refuse Miss Margaret Mary McKenna's application. She is an excellent teacher, as is also her sister, and she has given long and faithful service in Drumherney. I should therefore like to transfer her from Drumherney to Derrynoose.

To replace Miss Margaret Mary McKenna in