

I remember...

MEMORIES OF MY SCHOOLDAYS

While we may not all agree with the saying that 'schooldays are the happiest days of our lives', we would have to accept that they are an important time for everyone. Our first day at school is the day we take our first steps into our own independent life.

Now that many of us have more time on our hands with the restrictions caused by the pandemic, MHS Heritage & Culture has produced this booklet to prompt memories of our schooldays - maybe to share with family and friends or maybe just as a keepsake for ourselves. The booklet is really designed to record the experiences of primary school but of course it could relate to second level as well.

The questions are just set out as prompts and to serve as reminders of days which may be long gone and there is no need to answer them all. Other stories, memories and thoughts can be included on the blank pages at the end of each section.

Being based in Maghera we are particularly interested in memories people have of local schools. We would be very grateful if anyone who went to school in Maghera or the surrounding area could fill in a booklet for our archives and return it to us at The Hearth, 11 Main Street, Maghera BT465AA. This local history would be a wonderful resource for future generations and would document the development of education in Maghera. This information can also be posted on our website: www.maghera-heritage.org.uk . Copies of the booklet can be downloaded from the website.

We will only use your information if you are happy for us to do so. There is a data protection note on the back page which we ask you to fill in if you are giving in a booklet for our records.

We hope you enjoy reliving memories of your days at school.

FIRST NAME

MAIDEN NAME

SURNAME

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL YOU ATTENDED?

WHERE WAS IT LOCATED?

WHAT YEAR DID YOU START SCHOOL?

WHAT YEAR DID YOU FINISH?

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED SCHOOL?

WHERE WERE YOU LIVING WHILE YOU ATTENDED THIS SCHOOL?

CONTACT DETAILS

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1. First Day
2. Getting Ready
3. The School Building
4. People
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FIRST DAY

Were you looking forward to the first day or apprehensive?

Who went to the school with you?

Can you remember what you did during the day?

NOTES

NOTES

GETTING READY

What time did school start?

What did you usually wear going to school? Was there a uniform?

Did you bring a packed lunch? If you did, what was in it?

If the school provided dinners what did you get there?

Did your school provide milk for the pupils? How did it arrive?

How did you get there? Were you brought by your parents or did you go with friends ?

Was it fun going to and from school?

THE SCHOOL

Describe your school building as you remember it as a child.

Is the school still there?

Describe your classroom.

For example, what was on the walls?

What sort of desks did you have?

Did pupils share desks?

THE SCHOOL

What was the blackboard like?

Was there a special smell in the room?

Was it heated, was there a stove?

Did each class have their own room or did several classes share the same room?

What was the playground like?

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PEOPLE

What names can you remember of pupils in your class?

Who were your particular friends?

What teachers' names can you remember?

PEOPLE

Did you have a favourite teacher or can you remember a teacher who had a big influence on you?

Did the older students help the younger ones in your school?

What was discipline like? Was the school strict?

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LEARNING

What subjects do you remember studying at school?

What was your favourite and your least favourite of these?

Do you have any particular memory of something that made an impression on you? Like maybe a story or a poem or finding out something about nature or science?

LEARNING

Did you always get homework? Was it a burden?

Do you still have any of your old school books or copybooks?

What sort of copybooks and pens did you use?

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ACTIVITIES

Were there activities in your school like drama, sport, art, music and singing?

Did you enjoy any of these?

Were there school trips organised or days out?

ACTIVITIES

If you had outings, were any of them memorable for any reason?

Did the school run any special events like prizegiving, sports days, plays, concerts or competitions?

Again, were any of these memorable?

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PLAYTIME

How much time did you get to play in the yard?

What are your memories of this time?

Who did you like to play with?

PLAYTIME

What happened if it was cold or wet?

What games did you play and which were your favourites?

NOTES

Education

Where does time go
into a void or into the leather school bag
that memories hold?

A bright September morning and my
mother's soothing voice
'Must I go?' Asked the child with a tear.

Smiling she replied,
'Button up your coat,
and don't worry my dear.'

And the steps I climb, and in I go,
taking it easy, nice and slow.
As I look around what do I find?
Only that it's another world from another
time.

A cluster of noises, a jingling of bags.
and the cloakroom we visit and then on to
the class.

Our teachers are standing, as we walk in at
last.
'Please take a chair, and sit at your desk.'
On a Monday morning so bright and fair.

And the sunny days, long and hot as I
walked barefooted home
And the tar from the road stuck to my
feet then the texture felt different as the
concrete slabs met my feet.

Although it was only a day, from so very long
ago

And there has been a great deal of changes
from now to then
And the cold dark days and snow the
weather brought.
Looking outside from inside I thought sadly,
'Why can't I be outside looking in?'
But, you know, time granted my wish,
As many years pass and I watch my own
child walk into her class.

We all have our memories of this important
time
With dusters and blackboards and chalk
drawings of all kinds.
Of letters on lines.

Although some of those times were tough,
and the characters That made us are so very
far away,
smiling, I think with all positive vibes
wasn't school for some the happiest time in
our lives.

Joseph McCoy

MHS Heritage and Culture Ltd. would like to store and use the information provided in this booklet for historical purposes. The information you provide will be archived and may be used in future projects on our website relating local history. We will seek permission from you before using any information you have submitted in this booklet in this way. You can contact our organisation at any time and request that the information you have submitted is destroyed if you change your mind.

Under the new Data protection law we will only collect your data for this specific purpose and use it only for this purpose. If you wish to know more visit our website and read our data protection policy at <https://maghera-heritage.org.uk/privacy-policy-2/> or drop into our office to access a hard copy.

Signed:..... Date:.....