

VICTORIAN SCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

for KS2 students (Led by your own staff)

Option 2

Location: Ballyveridagh National School or Ballydown National School in the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum.

Please ensure you contact the Learning Centre in advance to book your visit and venue.

Equipment in school house may include: Slates and chalk for younger students; smocks for girls; a range of games for the playground area such as stilts, skipping ropes and hoops. (There may also be access to a cane and a school bell).

Teachers and children may wish to dress in costume before arrival. See 'Ideas for Victorian costume' in the resources section of the website.

If your group arrives early for school, children can play in their own playgrounds, boys in one area and girls in another.

When the teacher (own staff member) comes out and rings the bell, the children must line up – boys and girls separately. As they enter the school house, they must present the teacher with a piece of turf and they will be seated near to the fire or further away, according to the size of the piece they bring. Boys and girls are seated separately in the classroom.

Inform the pupils that any talking, bad manners or misbehaviour was not tolerated. Offenders would have been caned, strapped or made to stand in the corner or in the turf shed (you may explain this but modify for today's children). Other suggested rules are available at the bottom of this document.

Religious Instruction: New Testament, Luke, Chapter 10, Verses 30-37
the Parable of The Good Samaritan. To be read aloud in a clear voice with expression while standing at desk. (See text below)

Art: Take a sample plant or branch into the classroom for the children to draw on slates with chalk. Compare drawings.

Arithmetic: Three and Six times tables, or suitable alternative, to be recited by children while seated at desks.

Writing: Copy script on Vere Foster copy sheets for senior students.
Neatness in hand writing is imperative.

Drill: Children must begin with correct posture – hips firm and feet together.

1. Bring hands to touch shoulders – then hands stretch to the ceiling – repeat counting to eight
2. Turn head to the left, then roll head backwards. Turn head to the right and roll head forwards all with slow, careful movements (making a full circle) - repeat
3. Heels raised, then lowered - repeat

4. Knees bent, then straightened. Arms outstretched in front of body – repeat
5. Hands on waist, twist to the right, then to the front and then to the left - repeat
6. Stand at ease

Spellings: Pupils to be tested aurally with words such as: School, Discipline, Children, Gentle, Obey, Respect, Mild and Education.

Pupils must raise hands quietly if they wish to answer a question.

Class dismissed.

There may follow a relaxed discussion about the experience.

Additional rules

Pupils must stand up to answer questions and wait for permission to speak

Pupils must call teachers "Sir" or "Ma'am"

Pupils must stand when an adult enters the room

Talking and fidgeting will be punished

Pupils must use the right hand at all times for writing

Discussion points

- (Depending on school house used) Ask the children to note the height of the windows? Why were they so high?
- How did they feel about boys and girls playing and sitting separately? (In some cases schoolhouses had their own separate entrances for each gender).
- A lot of teaching involved writing down from the blackboard, repetition and rote learning. Would children today prefer this style of learning?
- What do the students think of the 'cane' as a form of punishment?
- In Victorian times teachers were often considered to be strict and very scary. All sorts of things might be punished: being late, rudeness, answering back, speaking out of turn, poor work etc. How do the students feel they would have coped and behaved in that period?

Other things to consider

- Equipment in the school house eg writing implements, abacus, tacks in the floor of Ballydown National School
- Lack of wall charts
- Blackboards
- Half-timers
- Heating
- Lessons
- Handwriting
- Playground games
- Phrases relating to school times – 'blot your copybook' and 'toeing the line' Other Victorian poets and poems

Examples of arithmetic for the blackboard

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- What is $742+64+8+341+804+60+642+790+806$ equal to?
- What is $7260+1404+8496+2413+46+4786+3326$ equal to?
- How many do 67 and 79 and 93 and 104 and 65 make?
- I gave John 12 apples, James 15, Patrick 20 and I had still 25 remaining; how many apples had I at first?
- A man walked 26 miles on Monday, 34 on Tuesday, 46 on Wednesday, 37 on Thursday; on Friday being unable to walk, he procured a horse and rode 41 miles; and completed his journey on Saturday, having travelled that day 67 miles; how many miles did he travel during the week?
- Ireland is about 300 miles in length and 170 miles in breadth; how much greater is the length than the breadth?
- On an apple tree there were 165 apples. The wind blew off two dozen and a half; how many were left on the tree?
- Sir Issac Newton was born in A.D. 1642, and died 1727; how old was he when he died?
- A man who had £1000 in the bank withdrew £450.25; how much has he there now?

Religious verse

New Testament, Luke, Chapter 10, Verses 30-37

30 And Jesus answering said, "A certain man went down from Jericho and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance, there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him

34 and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine and set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence and gave them to the host and said unto him, Take care of him and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?"

37 And he said, "He that showed mercy on him." Then said Jesus unto him, "Go, and do thou likewise."