

Schools in Girthon and Anwoth

Anwoth Parish School – First school probably built in early 1700's. First record of a teacher was Mr Samuel Gordon 1736 and 1743. Closed in 1866 when the pupils were moved to Fleetside School in Gatehouse.

Bland Female School – We know nothing about this school other than that it must have occupied at least part of what became Fleetside School. In one of the walls of Fleetside was a plaque which suggests that The Bland Female School was erected in 1866. This plaque has been preserved and is now embedded in the wall between Gatehouse School and the Community Centre. A comment in a newspaper when it closed suggests that it may have been a Free Church of Scotland School.

Cally Academy – Opened in 1795 by James Murray of Cally for children of workers from England. Run by the Episcopalian vicar. Closed in 1820 when numbers attending the school fell.

Cally School for Boys – In the building behind what used to be the Cally Estate Office. It has a date of 1812. Later became part of Rusko School. Bell tower can still be seen.

Cally School for Girls – In Ann Street, by the old Cally Estate Office. Probable date about 1859 when The Lake School joined with the Cally Boys' School.

Fleetside School – Name given to Anwoth Parish School when it moved from Anwoth Clachan into the Bland Female School building in Gatehouse about 1866. It became the junior section of Gatehouse School in 1918 when Girthon and Anwoth schools combined.

Used as woodwork and domestic science classes from about 1925 until it was demolished when Gatehouse Secondary School built c.1963.

Free Church School - May have been in the Fleetside building or the basement of the Free Church (now the Rutherford Hall). See Bland Female School above.

In 1861 Anwoth census Alexander Bell is listed as a school teacher at Free Church school. Dominie David Clark may have been the head teacher at the Free Church School and then continued at Fleetside School when the Free Church School closed and the Anwoth children came to Gatehouse.

Gatehouse Primary School – Gatehouse Primary and Secondary were run as one school from about 1925 until the secondary school closed in 1979. When the new secondary building was built in c.1963, the primary continued to use the old Gatehouse school building. When the secondary school was closed in 1979 the primary moved into the vacated building and the old primary building became the Community Centre.

Gatehouse Secondary School – Built about 1963 and closed in 1979. Pupils were transferred to Kirkcudbright Academy and Gatehouse Primary took over the building.

Girthon Parish School - the first school was probably built in early 1700's. First recorded head was John Anderson between 1784 and 1828. This is probably about the time that the school was built in Castramont Road. It is not clear if a school master's house was attached. John Anderson also taught evening classes which were attended by Thomas Murray between 1802 and 1807.

When Girthon and Anwoth schools combined c.1918, this became the senior section of the school. It was closed c.1925 when a new school building was built beside Fleetside School..

Kirkdale School – in Carsluith village, Kirkmabreck Parish. Opened 1913, closed 1964.
Children from western end of Anwoth parish attended this school.

Lady Anne Murray's Charity School for Girls (The Lake School) This charity school, whose benefactor was Lady Anne Murray from Cally House, opened between 1816 and 1826. It may have been a mixed school at first before it became a school for girls. It closed in 1859 when the teacher from the Lake School married the teacher from the Cally Boy's school and the two schools combined in the Ann Street buildings.

Laggan School – a subsidiary school in Anwoth Parish. It opened in 1845 and was closed c.1872 when the children were moved to a new school at Skyreburn.

Rusko School – Sometimes called the **Cally & Rusko School**. Name given to school in Ann Street, where the girls from Lady Anne's School had joined with the boys from the Cally Boys School. From about 1904 when Mrs Murray Stewart, the benefactor moved to Rusko House after the death of her husband, it was known as the Rusko School. The school closed in 1914.

Skyreburn School – opened in 1845 and took children from the western end of Anwoth parish and Skyreburn Glen. Closed about 1963. Most children transferred to Gatehouse School.

Private Schools included:

'**Girthon Kirk School**' - small school at Girthon Kirk established by farmer John McGeoch to educate his family. Other local children attended to help to pay for the teachers wages.
Thomas Murray (born 1792) attended this school. (see below)

Hugh Nae's private school in Fleet Street. Attended by Thomas Murray c.1800.

Thomas Murray opened a small private school near Cally in 1807. This took place at his father's house at Bush (near Girthon Old Manse) in winter but in the parish church (Girthon Kirk) in summer. This gave Murray some money to pay for his further education at Edinburgh University which he entered in 1810.

Eliza Watson's School c.1837

Alexander McAdam's School c. 1837 – in Digby Street and then 10a Catherine Street

Woodside Girl's School – before 1912 – in the Toll Bar (opposite the town dam).