

1128

The Tounis Scule (The Royal High School of Edinburgh) was founded by King David I when the Abbey of Holyrood was first built. The Royal High School is one of the oldest schools in Europe.

1696

The Scottish Parliament's Act for Settling of Schools decreed that there should be a school in every parish, provided and paid for through the church. Teaching consisted mainly of the 3Rs and religion. Over the years many different types of schools started up and by the 1860s, there was no coherent system, no central control or organisation and widely varying standards of education.

1872

The Education Act Scotland Act provided compulsory, universal education for ages 5-13, (except for those over ten years old who had proficiency in Grade 5), controlled by local school boards and subject to inspection. Control by churches was removed (except in Roman Catholic and Episcopalian schools), creating a non-sectarian system of largely free public schools. It also put an end to non-English medium education and repressed Scottish Gaelic medium education with pupils being punished for speaking the language.

1883

The school leaving age was raised to 14.

1911

By 1911, 70% of teachers in Scotland were women, whereas in 1851 the figure was only 35%. This increase did not lead to equality between male and female teachers, however. The average salaries of certificated male teachers varied from £121 and £145 a year in the period 1872 to 1900, while female teachers received between £62 and £72

1944

Before 1944 women teachers who married were not permitted to continue their teaching career. The marriage bar was lifted in 1944.

1982

In 1982, two Scottish mothers went to the European Court of Human Rights, who passed a judgment that parents had the right to refuse corporal punishment of a child. This judgement led indirectly to the use of the tawse (and all other forms of corporal punishment) being banned by law in UK state schools. The legislation came into force in 1987, but most Scottish local education authorities had already abolished it by the early 1980s.

2010-11

A Curriculum for Excellence was introduced in all Scottish schools.

1496

Education Act, making schooling for the sons of barons and wealthy landowners compulsory from the age of eight. The idea was to ensure that those who would become judges or sheriffs would have a proper understanding of the law.

1837

The first teacher training college in the British Isles was set up in Dundas Vale, Glasgow. The Glasgow Normal Seminary was established by the Glasgow Educational Society as a training school for teachers.

1888

The Scottish Education Department introduced a Leaving Certificate Exam, examined by university professors, to set national standards and in 1890 school fees were abolished, creating a state-funded national system of basic education and common examinations.

1918

The 1918 Education Act raised the leaving age to 15 (although it was not brought in until nearly the end of 1918, because of high unemployment and the results of WW1). Roman Catholic Schools were brought into the Scottish system of free education.

1962

The Scottish Certificate of Education replaced the previous Leaving Certificate.

1965

Comprehensive Schools were introduced UK wide

1800

The Society of Free Fishermen pay for a schoolmaster to teach boys.

1831

The Newhaven Education Society applied for a grant from Dr. Bell's Trust as their school would be conducted on the same lines as The Madras Schools. (Madras schools are so named because they operated in Madras (now Chennai). They worked by using older pupils to teach younger children.) The school was based in Forth Church Hall.

1844

The first headmaster was Mr. Alexander Ingram.

1844

There were 5 schools in Newhaven at that time. Over time Victoria was extended until all the children in the village could be accommodated.



1874

Leith school Board took over the management of Victoria School.

1897

£5,064 cost to increase capacity by 288 places.

1884

£ 2,854 cost to increase capacity by 256 places

1930

£14,471 cost to build an Infant School building for 200 places.

2014

In January 2014, the foundations were being laid for the new Anchor Building in the playground. The Anchor Building was needed to accommodate an increase in the school roll. A skeleton was found during excavation. The skeleton had been buried since the 16th century. There is lots of speculation about his identity. A criminal, a pirate, a smuggler?

2022

Victoria Primary School finally moved to a new site in Windrush Drive.

The Heart of Newhaven Community took over the building with a Community Asset Transfer and is now thriving and growing in this historic building.