

THE VILLAGE SCHOOLS

There were 2 mixed elementary schools in each village, taking children up to school leaving age of 14. All were under the Kent Education Committee. Each are featured on separate sheets.

Council Schools (started with pupils from former Non-Conformist Schools)

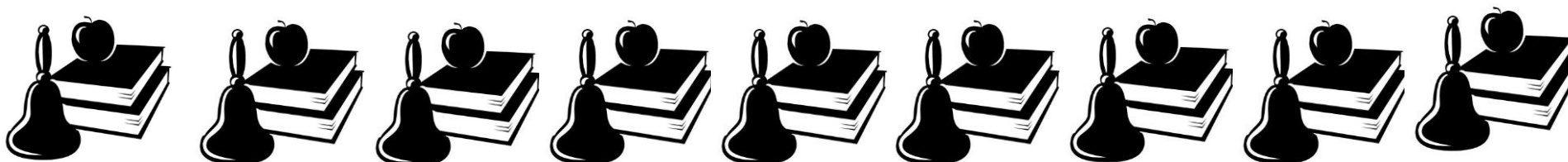
Crockenhill Council School	230 pupils	Opened 1906
Eynsford Council School	125 pupils	Built 1894
Farningham Council School	150 pupils	Opened 1902

Church of England Schools

Crockenhill Church School	112 pupils	Built 1857+
Eynsford Church School	140 pupils	Built 1834+1898
Farningham Church School	150 pupils	Built 1873

SCHOOL RECORDS

Managers' Minutes and Log Books form the main records, with some **admission books**, but **no school has a complete run**. Because of the 100 years' rule regarding confidentiality, some items covering the War period are still closed.



THE VILLAGE SCHOOLS - Managers' Minutes

Frequency of meetings - Fewer than one a month, but no firm pattern.

Most discussed items –

Poor attendance
Turnover of staff
Holiday dates
Poor heating / sanitation
Maintenance and repairs
Various circulars from K.E.C.
The War – (See separate sheets)
Agricultural employment licences
Air-raid instructions
Flag days / Empire day
Use of schools in wartime emergency
Collection of horse chestnuts

Log books – Most entered items

Attendance
Weather affecting
attendance &
opening of school
Visitors, including
Inspectors
Flag days /
Empire day
Holidays
Illnesses and
epidemics



Lily Roberts' Kent Education Committee attendance medal, with bars, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1913, Crockenhill Council School

STAFF SHORTAGES - EYNSFORD

Except for Crockenhill Council School, the village schools were affected by staff shortages because male teachers left to join the armed forces.

To get more teachers Kent Education Committee on 17 February 1915 asked managers to encourage applicants to train as teachers. **'If they can be found in other remote places like Crockenhill'** KEC would be prepared to grant Special Exhibitions for them to attend the nearest Secondary School – in this case Bromley Secondary School. Mary Atkins (later withdrawn), Doris Baker, Jessie Cannon (later found to have made unsatisfactory progress), Olivia Wise were awarded Exhibitions. Olivia Wise was later offered a pupil-teachership at Crockenhill School in 1918, but Doris Baker had not found a pupil-teacher place.

At Eynsford Arthur Mycroft continued as head of the Church School, but **Leslie R. Hillier**, who was appointed head of Eynsford Council School months before the outbreak of war, enlisted in the 2/16th London regiment in 1915, and was replaced by his predecessor, **Samuel Woolley**, who came out of retirement. **John Hayward**, assistant teacher at **Eynsford Council School** from 1909, enlisted in the Royal West Kent regiment in 1915, but when discharged as unfit in 1917 returned to his post. This left the head and **Miss Lily Bradshaw**, who taught the Infants. **Miss M. Wheeler** came to replace Mr Hayward.

STAFF SHORTAGES – CROCKENHILL

At **Crockenhill** the two heads, **Henry H. Harnett** of the Church School and **Thomas Wilson** of the Council School, had been in their posts before 1900, and they continued to run the schools throughout the war, with Mr Wilson delaying his retirement until after the end of the war.

4 assistant teachers at **Crockenhill Council school** were women, who continued working – they were **Miss Lilian Lansley** until 1916 (later Mrs Raymond Everest), **Miss Grace Clements** from 1915 (later Mrs Archibald Alexander), **Miss Dora Wilson** until 1916 (later Mrs Jackson), and **Miss Agnes Moffatt** until 1915 (later Mrs Arthur Everest) came back 1917 – three of these being aunts of Elsie Clements' sons, Lex and Bernard, who attended the school during the war years. **Miss Florence Burton** 1916-1918 was another assistant.



The assistant teacher at **Crockenhill Church School** was **Mrs Harnett**, but she semi-retired in 1916, and it proved difficult to find a replacement, with no one for 6 months. **Mrs Dinsdale** taught the Infants.

STAFF SHORTAGES - FARNINGHAM

At Farningham Robert James Stone was head of **Farningham Council School**, although on 30 July 1918 he joined the volunteer Army Service Corps. He asked for absence in advance if called up for active service. KEC replied that they would give him permission, but not pay him unless there was a threat of imminent invasion (see below).

of whom...

Teacher:-

"In reply to your letter of 31st ultimo, I have to say that the Committee raise no objection to Mr Stone joining the Volunteers and signing the agreement required for Section A or Section B, but it must be distinctly understood that in the case of absence from school on account of service with the Volunteers he will not be entitled to receive any salary or allowance as a Teacher unless he is called out in the event of imminent invasion."

In 1917 the head of **Farningham Church School, John W. Hetherington**, was transferred to take charge of the Boys Department at Sutton-at-Hone School until the end of the War. This reduced Farningham Church School to 2 staff, with an upper class and one class combining Infants with Standards I & II.