

The Old School Building

There was no school at Cosgrove in 1818, when the poor were said to be desirous of the means of education. There were two by 1833, one connected with the house of industry (itself established in 1830), which was free to the children (of both sexes) of labourers, and to others on a small weekly payment; it then had 27 pupils and was supported out of the parish rates. The other taught reading and sewing, had 18 pupils of both sexes, and was supported by fees. There were also two Sunday schools. One, opened in 1820, was attended by 25 boys and supported from the parish rates; the other, taught at the parsonage by the minister's family, was attended by 30 girls, and the expenses were met by the incumbent. Both the day schools had closed by 1840 and the Sunday schools merged into one, although numbers remained about the same and the boys' master continued to be paid from the rates while the girls' mistress was paid by the clergy.

In 1844 Maria Margaret Mansel conveyed to the rector, churchwardens and overseers the cottage at Cosgrove Green which was then unoccupied but had lately been the parish house of industry, to be used as a National school. The cottage was demolished and replaced by a two-storey building in stone, 47 ft. by 21 ft. overall, rising 21 ft. to the eaves, with a schoolroom on the ground floor and apartments for a teacher upstairs.



Although plans for a new church school were prepared in 1910, the managers eventually decided that they could not proceed on a voluntary basis and the county council erected new premises, in red brick with slate roofs, on a larger site closer to the centre of the village, which opened in June 1912. The new building had two classrooms for the mixed department (20 ft. by 20 ft. and 20 ft. by 18 ft.), approved for 40 and 32 children, and an infants' room 20 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in., approved for 40, although the total average attendance in 1913 was only 75. An earlier scheme by the county council in 1907-8 to build a school for

200 children just outside Cosgrove, which would also have served Potterspury, Furtho, Passenham and Old Stratford, was strongly opposed by Cosgrove parish council and rejected by the Board of Education.

After 1912 the old school at the Green was used as a village hall. The building was sold in 1966 to a local builder for a store but was later converted to residential use after the building ceased to be used as a village hall.