



# Knowledge Organiser- Princess Frederica: Life in a Victorian School



## School

Start: 9 am  
 End: 5pm  
 Lunch- 12-2pm  
 Lessons: Drill Exercise, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Bible Study, Sewing (Girls), Woodwork/ Gardening (Boys).

## School rules

Pupils must wait permission to speak  
 Pupils must use right hand  
 Pupils must stand when adults enter  
 Pupils must not ask questions  
 Pupils must not raise their hands without permission  
 Talking and fidgeting will be punished

## Punishments

The Cane (hands or bottom), Dunce's hat, Lines.

## Equipment

Slate, Slate Pencils, Abacus, Globe, Ink (Older children), Blackboard.

## Extra Information

Wooden desks- fixed to floor  
 High windows  
 Up to 100 children per class  
 Strict teachers (usually female)



**Time period: 1837- 1901**  
**Monarch: Queen Victoria**



## Assessment Question:

What is our school life like today compared to a Victorian child's experience?

### 2) Victorian School

For many years, only children of rich families went to school or were taught at home by a teacher called a governess. Poor children couldn't go to school as they had to work to earn money. In 1893, the law changed to allow all children to go to school for free.



Victorian school was strict with lots of rules. Naughty children had harsh punishments, such as writing lines or wearing a dunces' cap. Sometimes, children would be beaten with a stick called a cane.

### Learning equipment

Teachers used a blackboard with chalk. Young children would write on mini blackboards called **slate**. Older children used ink and paper. For Maths, children would use an abacus.



Classrooms were tightly packed with lots of children, Sometimes, there would be over 100 children in the same room! Children had to be silent all the time and were not allowed to ask questions.



### Key Words

Urban- Town environment  
 Slum- Poor housing area  
 Orphan- Child with no parents  
 Workhouse - Home for the poor  
 Cane- Stick used for punishment  
 Factory- large building with machines  
 Poverty- the state of being extremely poor  
 'Ragged school'- A free school used for children who were too poor to be taught elsewhere.



### Princess Frederica

- Princess Frederica of Hanover (1848- 1926) was the daughter of George and Marie, the King and Queen of Hanover and the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland.
- After her father died in 1878, Frederica wished to marry her father's former Private Secretary, Baron Alphons von Pawel-Rammingen. Her mother & brother Ernest objected, as Alphons was not royal.
- However, Queen Victoria supported her, as Frederica was also a member of the British Royal Family. Victoria gave Frederica away at a splendid wedding at Windsor Castle in April 1880.
- Afterwards Queen Victoria gave Frederica apartments at Hampton Court. Frederica's only child, Victoria, was born in 1881, but died three weeks later.
- Princess Frederica was interested in children and became patron of the Church Extension Association, then in Kilburn, which wished to set up schools in the new suburb of Willesden. On July 24th 1889, she formally opened Princess Frederica Primary school.
- When she died in 1926, her body was brought back to Windsor Castle and buried in St George's Chapel near her father and daughter and other members of the Royal Family.

### Government Reforms

- 1874** - Ten Hour Factory Act meant that people could not be made to work for more than 10 hours a day and children under 14 could not be employed fulltime
- 1878** - Factory and Workshop Act banned the employment of children under 10
- 1880** - Education Act made it compulsory for children up to 12 to go to school, but most children had to pay
- 1891** - Education is free and compulsory for all 5-13 year olds

