

## **Education – Tuam**

In 1866, a Weaving Room was established and young girls leaving school got employment there. Following the death of Archbishop McHale in 1882, the Sisters were accepted into the National School system and capitation grants with the results fees were granted.

In 1894 classes were held under the technical branch of the Department of Education where girls were taught needlework, cooking, laundry, hygiene, shorthand and typing. After World War 1, a knitting industry replaced the lace industry, and this gave employment until 1942.

In 1880, a pension school was opened to help with funds, and in 1884 a boarding school was opened. A continuation school, which included what was originally the pension school and the new boarding school, was established under the patronage of St. Brigid. In 1923, St Brigid's was awarded a Cup by the Department of Education for the best Irish speaking school in the country. In 1966, it entered the Free Education Scheme. For the first time in its history of school extensions, in 1924, 1928, 1931, 1946, 1956 and 1958, the school received a Government grant of 75% of the £101,000 cost for an extension in 1969. The boarding school, which had its origins in the 1880's, closed in 2000.

In the mid-seventies, there was insufficient room in the Primary School and a Junior section was opened on a new site nearby in September 1976. This was used for Junior and Senior Infants. Srs. Margaret Dolan, Teresa Fahy, Mary Kelly and Marcellina Muldoon moved to the new building. When the numbers reduced and the school closed, the building was used for Youth services. Eventually it was given to Vincent de Paul as part of the Voluntary Contribution. It is now a Family Resource Centre

It has been agreed to transfer the Primary School to the Diocese.

CEIST are the trustees of the school and the transfer of ownership to EDUCENA is in process.