

For more than 150 years in Ardee, the Sisters established centres of learning: Our Lady's Primary School, a Commercial School, a Lace School – the latter two providing young girls with skills to gain employment and an income. Sunday school sessions were made available to servant girls who worked in the fields while the daughters of shopkeepers and farmers were offered classes in English, Religion, French and Music.



Scoil Muire na Trócaire

The Primary School, already in being and operating in part of the Convent itself with added on prefabs, eventually moved to a new building, Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire in 1956. Meanwhile, in 1942, a further educational development was the provision of St. Anne's Secondary School. This centre of learning grew rapidly until 1970 when a new school was needed and at this point the Department of Education favoured the establishment of a Community School. The Sisters adapted to the many changes and continued to maintain a presence in the school system until recent times.

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St. Joseph's Hospital

Less than twenty years after their arrival in Ardee, a group of Sisters was living in the workhouse where they cared for the sick and dying and unwanted children until 1922, when the workhouse was replaced by St. Joseph's District Hospital. The status of this building changed over the years, finally becoming St. Joseph's Home for the Sick and Elderly and, until recently, there was one Sister working there.



Ascension Parish Church, Melbourne

In September 1961 three Sisters left Ardee to set up a primary school in Melbourne, Florida, USA. Eventually, nine Sisters from Ardee gave service in Florida as a second school was opened in 1964, in Holy Name Parish. Two Sisters from Ardee are presently ministering in Ascension Parish, Melbourne, Florida.

www.ascensioncatholic.net

In the 1980s a pre-school was established in Ardee to provide crèche facilities and was managed by two Sisters with a number of assistants. Over the years, as well as providing facilities for young children, it became a centre for in-service training and work experience for students from the local community school.



Playschool Equipment