

The pattern of steady enrolment remained into the early 1950's. District Inspector, James W. Elijah reported in May 1948, as a consequence of information gained from the Ringwood and Ringwood North districts that enrolment trends would be:

Year	Attendance	(+) Pupils who will be 6 Years	(-) Pupils completing Year VIII	TOTAL
1949	55	1	4	52
1950	52	11	4	59
1951	59	3	6	56
1952	56	12	8	60
1953	60	4	3	61
1954	61	18	6	73

It was evident to James Elijah that considerable housing development would occur in the district by 1950. He recommended that the new building be delayed until that time. He had no hesitation in recommending the provision of a standard sized room.<sup>50</sup> The Department noted that no action would be taken but that the case should be kept 'under notice' and suggested February 1949 for the next review.

James Elijah returned to Ringwood North in the spring of 1949 to review the school's needs. He reported that detail provided in his 1948 assessment remained accurate. He did not believe an additional classroom would be needed until 1953-54 at the earliest. It was further recommended that a fixed partition be installed to create two classrooms rather than maintain the one larger classroom.

Finally, in September 1950, the Department recommended the building of the new classroom, believing that "the need for some improvement in teaching conditions seems urgent enough to justify the immediate provision of a partition in the existing school room..."<sup>51</sup> It was recommended that the additional classroom 'already on the list dated 21 September 1949 of urgent and essential works, " be proceeded with as soon as possible." The attendance of the school in June 1950 had reached 62 pupils. On the basis of providing 12 sq. ft. per child, this would fill the school room to capacity. The Departmental memo pointed out that as a consequence of the new policy of allowing 20sq.ft. per pupil in infant grades meant that there was insufficient accommodation in the single room building.

The projected increase in enrolments occurred during the early 1950's. In October 1952, the net enrolment was 90 pupils; by April 1953 school Head Teacher Lyons reported the net enrolment of the school to be 100 pupils with at least eight children waiting admission in July. The severe overcrowding meant that these children could not be admitted. The Department considered the provision of the additional room as "very urgent". Tenders were let and during 1955; the long sought after classroom, an Infant room, was erected.

<sup>50</sup> School Correspondence Files,(VPRS: 640, Box 2970) Elijah to the secretary, Education Department: 10 May 1948.

<sup>51</sup> School Correspondence Files, (VPRS: 640, Box 2970), Education Department Internal Memo: 12 September 1950.