



Fact sheet: Education

By the 1950s education was compulsory and free.

The island's first schools were the responsibility of the East India Company chaplains. Some early settlers could not afford school fees and needed their children to work and most slave owners forbade slave children to go to school. For several hundred years this prevented many children from being educated.

Over time, attitudes and the education system changed to benefit more people. During the 19th century, classes were available to adults, garrison soldiers, children whose parents could not afford tuition, and those who sought practical rather than academic skills. Charities played a key role in this expansion of opportunities. Established in 1814, the Committee of the Benevolent Society worked the government to increase access to education for the less fortunate. For decades after its formation in 1865 the Rebecca Hussy Charity provided schooling for hundred of liberated African slaves.

By the 1950s education was compulsory and free for all island children. The development of secondary education allowed students to gain recognised qualifications. Since the opening of Prince Andrew School in 1988, every Saint has the opportunity to maximise their potential. Some are able to leave the island to study further in universities and colleges.