

**Statement to the House of Parliament
Second Meeting of the 2026/27 Session**

**By the Honourable Rolston Anglin, JP, MP
Minister for Finance and Economic Development &
Education & Training**

[05 October 2026]

Title:

Building for the Future: Joanna Clarke Primary School Hall and Staffroom Expansion

Tagline:

“Mister Speaker, a growing school needs facilities that allow every student and every member of staff to learn, work and come together as one school community.”

Mister Speaker, I am also pleased to report that the Joanna Clarke Primary School Hall and Staffroom Expansion Project are underway.

The construction contract has been awarded, and the first phase of work is complete.

For many years, Joanna Clarke Primary has made do with a hall and staffroom that no longer meet its needs.

The school has a combined population of approximately 480 students and staff. The existing hall, however, has a capacity of only 285. It has no stage and no storage. As a result, graduations and other large events must be held off site.

The hall also serves as the school's dining space. Because it cannot seat everyone at once, lunch is served in two sittings. Equally important, it is not easily accessible to persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

Mister Speaker, this project has been designed to address each of these limitations, not only for the school as it is today, but for the school it will become in the future.

The new hall will accommodate all 70 members of staff and up to 550 students, more than 600 people in total. That capacity is deliberate. It

will house the whole school comfortably now and allow room for growth in the years ahead. The hall will include a stage, allowing the school to host graduations, whole-school assemblies and other large events on its own campus.

It will also be equipped with enhanced kitchen appliances and dedicated preparation spaces. This will allow up to 550 meals to be prepared on site each day and served in a single sitting. Beyond efficiency, our aim is a positive dining experience where students can relax, socialise and enjoy their meals together.

Accessibility is central to the design. The new hall will meet the needs of persons with disabilities. To ensure the site complies with building regulations, works will extend beyond the building itself. These include accessible entranceways, grading of the surrounding areas, paved pathways, disabled parking and a designated drop-off area.

With respect to the staffroom, the present school cannot accommodate all 70 members of staff at the same time. It has only a small kitchenette, lacks storage and has insufficient bathroom facilities for the current staff complement. The expansion will provide a staffroom that can accommodate the entire staff at once.

Because Joanna Clarke Primary School remains an active school site, the works have been structured into four phases: groundworks for the expansion of the existing car park; associated asphalt paving works for the expanded parking area; the staffroom expansion; and, finally, construction of the new assembly hall. This sequencing allows the school to continue operating safely while construction proceeds.

The groundworks for the expansion of the existing car park have now been completed by Island Paving, with the associated asphalt paving works to follow.

In summary, Mister Speaker, this project is underway and moving in an orderly, phased manner. When complete, Joanna Clarke Primary will, for the first time, be able to gather its whole school under one roof, serve lunch in a single sitting and welcome every student through a wheelchair accessible door.

This Government remains committed to delivering school facilities that are safe, accessible and fit for purpose, and to doing so responsibly with public funds.

I thank this Honourable House.