

**Statement to the House of Parliament
First Sitting of the 2nd 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:

Expanding Education Capacity in West Bay: Sir John A. Cumber Primary School

Tagline:

“Mister Speaker, when a community grows, its education system must be ready to grow with it.”

Mister Speaker, I now turn to the expansion of Sir John A. Cumber Primary School and Government's acquisition of the former Kiddiewinks Education Facility.

This decision needs to be understood in the context of what is happening in West Bay.

West Bay continues to experience significant population and household growth, and that growth is placing corresponding pressure on school places. Sir John A. Cumber Primary School is already the largest Government primary school in the Cayman Islands. As at 16 June 2026, the school had 461 students enrolled against a maximum capacity of 509. At that time, Reception was already at capacity and was operating as a two-stream provision.

The pressure, however, is not limited to Reception. In June, Years 1 and 6 were also significant pressure points, with only six spaces available in each year group. As students have progressed through the school and the additional Reception capacity has been introduced, Years 2 and 3 are now emerging as the key pressure points.

More broadly, Mister Speaker, all other year groups have been operating at an average of over 80 per cent occupancy, both across the previous school year and currently. This demonstrates why we needed to act before the school reached a position where capacity constraints

significantly limited our ability to accommodate students in their own community.

Mister Speaker, those numbers tell only part of the story.

A school cannot responsibly respond to enrolment growth simply by turning every available room into another classroom. Sir John A. Cumber must also provide spaces for inclusion, intervention, specialist teaching, sensory support, its library, staff, small-group learning and the other services required to operate a modern primary school.

As enrolment continued to grow, the Ministry faced a choice: continue reconfiguring an already pressured campus and potentially sacrifice some of those important spaces, install temporary accommodation, commence a lengthy and extremely expensive new construction project, or secure an existing educational facility capable of providing meaningful capacity relief.

When the Kiddiewinks facility became available, we therefore did not look at it simply as an opportunity to purchase another building. We assessed it against a specific educational need.

The business case considered five options: continuing with existing arrangements; installing modular classrooms; leasing or licensing an alternative facility; acquiring Kiddiewinks; or constructing an additional classroom block at Sir John A. Cumber. Following that assessment, acquisition was identified as the preferred option because it offered the strongest combination of strategic fit, operational control, speed of capacity relief and long-term flexibility.

The facility is purpose-built for education and has capacity for approximately 144 to 168 students. Its acquisition gives Government an opportunity to establish a satellite campus under the leadership and governance of Sir John A. Cumber Primary School, rather than creating a separate school.

Our intention is to use that additional capacity strategically.

Sir John A. Cumber operates a four-stream model but previously had only two Reception classes. The additional facility allows Reception provision to be expanded while also creating additional dedicated capacity for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The business case identified the potential to provide places for up to 40 additional Reception students and up to 14 Key Stage 2 students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

This does something equally important at the existing campus: it creates breathing room.

By moving appropriate provision into a purpose-built setting, we can release space at the main campus for Years 1 through 6 and protect the specialist, intervention and inclusion spaces that support teaching and learning across the whole school.

Mister Speaker, we also considered value for money and the time required to deliver additional school places.

Building a comparable facility from the ground up would require site identification, feasibility and design work, statutory approvals, procurement, construction, fit-out and commissioning before a single additional child could benefit. During that period, the existing school would remain under pressure **and would certainly be at max capacity for some year groups.**

The acquisition of an existing purpose-built educational facility therefore provides Government with a significantly faster route to securing permanent education capacity, while avoiding many of the delivery and

construction risks associated with starting a new facility from inception. It also gives Government long-term control of an education asset in a district where demand is expected to continue to grow at rapid rate.

The acquisition was estimated at approximately CI\$6.5 million, and the decision was considered alongside alternatives including temporary modular accommodation, leasing and new construction. The rationale was therefore not simply that a property became available; the property provided a practical response to an identified capacity problem and an opportunity to secure a long-term public education asset rather than continue relying on short-term solutions.

The expanded campus welcomed its first students on Monday, 31 August, including students requiring autism-specific provision. For those students and their families, this means access to an environment designed around the needs of younger learners and students requiring additional support.

The Ministry has recruited two teachers and three support staff for the new autism-specific classes. An existing staff member has also been temporarily redeployed to the site in a leadership capacity, and recruitment of an additional assistant teacher is ongoing.

Mister Speaker, this was a deliberate investment. We were addressing an immediate capacity challenge, but we were also looking beyond the next school year. We wanted a solution that protects the quality of the existing Sir John A. Cumber campus, strengthens our inclusive provision, provides additional places for West Bay families and gives Government an education asset that can continue to serve the community as demand grows.

That is the rationale behind the decision to acquire and bring the Kiddiewinks facility into the Government education system.

I thank this Honourable House.