

Dr Barnardo

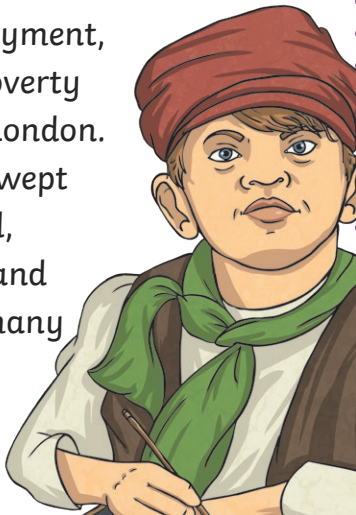


Dr Barnardo is best known for his work with orphans and poor children.

Early Life and Arrival in London

Thomas John Barnardo was born in Dublin in 1845. In 1866, he arrived in London to train as a doctor.

At the time, unemployment, overcrowding and poverty were widespread in London. A cholera epidemic swept through the East End, killing several thousand people and leaving many children orphaned.



Teaching

Many parents in the Victorian era were unable to afford education for their children, so Barnardo decided to give children a basic and free education himself.

He started teaching in a stable, before opening his own school in the East End in 1867 called Hope Place.

Home for Boys

Barnardo knew that many young children were sleeping in gutters and on top of roofs. This made him want to help even more. He opened a home for boys in Stepney Causeway in 1870. It was the first of his homes for children.

Barnardo regularly went out at night to look for homeless children. He believed that every child deserved the best possible start in life.

The Girls' Village Home

When Barnardo married his wife, a supporter gave them a house to use as a children's home. The Girls' Village Home in Barkingside was opened in 1876 and housed over 1500 girls at any one time.

They received training as cooks and domestic service maids so they could find employment once they left.

Charity

At the time of his death in 1905, his charity was caring for over 8500 children in 96 homes. The last Dr Barnardo's home closed in 1989 but the charity continues to help disadvantaged children throughout the United Kingdom to achieve success in their lives.

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