

School records at Wirral Archives Service

School records can be an excellent source of family history. This leaflet gives a brief history of schools and education, and lists the variety of school records held at Wirral Archives Service.



Wirral Archives Service

Contact Details

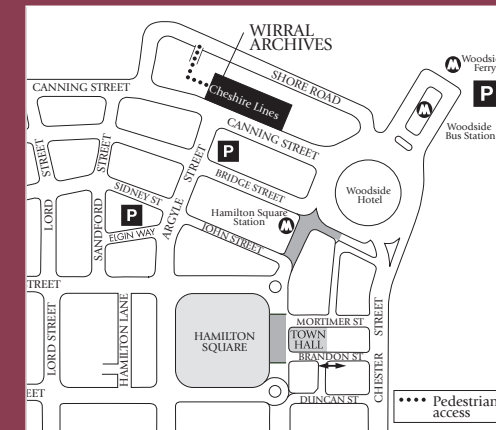
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Website: www.wirral.gov.uk
(please go to Leisure and Culture -> Records and Archives).

Opening hours

Monday - Friday, 9.30 - 16.30
Saturday, 10.00 - 13.00

Please note that access to the Service is via Shore Road.



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School records

A guide to school records at Wirral Archives Service



Brief History

Until the middle of the nineteenth century most schools were set up and maintained by churches and charitable organisations, providing a primary education. Secondary education was the responsibility of private or grammar schools. However despite the expansion of educational facilities, the rapid growth of the population meant that by the 1860s half the children of Britain did not attend day-school.

The Education Act of 1870 sought to remedy this situation. It required that the locally elected school boards provide elemental schools. In 1880 all children were compelled to attend school up to the age of 10. In 1899 this was raised to 12.

In 1902 responsibility for elementary, secondary and technical education was given to local education authorities under a central Board of Education, and thus board schools became council schools. The local education authorities began to provide school meals and school medical services. In 1918 the school leaving age was raised to 14.

The Education Act of 1944 replaced the Board with a Ministry of Education and established a tripartite system of secondary education, with grammar, technical and secondary modern schools. The school leaving age was raised to 15 in 1947 and to 16 in 1965. Also in 1965 the comprehensive school system was adopted as official national policy.



Records Held at Wirral Archives Service

The collection of school records held by Wirral Archives Service dates back to 1862 and currently covers over seventy Wirral schools. The collection comprises of information relating to board schools and council schools, church schools, primary and middle schools, secondary modern schools, comprehensive schools, grammar and high schools, and technical colleges.

The records include:

- Head teachers' log books, which detail daily entries of school events and other miscellaneous information.

- Admission and withdrawal registers, which provide information on individual pupils. They name the child and give the date of admission, the father's name and address (and sometimes the mother's name), the child's date of birth, the name of his or her previous school, and the date of leaving.

- Various other administrative records, including minutes of school governors meetings.

- School magazines.
- School histories.
- Photographs.

The survival of these records is very inconsistent. To discover what records we hold for a particular school, you should either consult the School Records catalogue in the search room or ask a member of staff.

For more information about schools in the nineteenth century you may wish to also consult our antiquarian histories, street directories or newspapers.

Records Held Elsewhere

Records of Wirral schools administered by Cheshire County Council before 1974 may have been deposited at Cheshire Record Office (Most of these are Church of England schools). The address is:

Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies Service,
Cheshire Record Office, Duke Street
Chester, Cheshire CH1 1RL
Tel: (01244) 972574
recordoffice@cheshire.gov.uk

