

# Dorset History Centre – Guide to Sources

## School Records

School records provide a wealth of information for those undertaking family and community histories as well as other types of research.

Elementary education during the first half of the nineteenth century was primarily dependent on the provision of schools by the Church and by various charities. The role of the state was extended from the late nineteenth century onwards with many new schools being established.

Lists of schools can be found in local trade directories.

### Admission Registers

- Admission registers generally **date from about the 1860s and 1870s**
- May include admission and leaving dates, **names and addresses of parents** and the dates of birth of individual children
- More detailed registers may also include the name of the school from which a pupil has moved or is moving to
- Admission registers often contain contemporary indexes to the names of pupils recorded within the volume

### Log Books

- The earliest log books held by the Dorset History Centre **date from the 1860s**
- Compiled by the head teacher and contain **general information about the school**, including information about teachers, the numbers of children attending

- Notes on misdemeanours and health, school inspections and **important events** and visitors may also be found
- They provide a valuable insight in rural areas such as Dorset, into the seasonal agricultural employment of children and the effects of bad weather, sickness and disease on school life

### **Other School Records**

Other records which may have survived include attendance registers, photographs of various aspects of school life as well as more formal class portraits, school publications, governors' minutes and other papers, and HM Inspector's reports.

Please note that there may be restricted access to some types of school record. For further information about restricted access please follow the link

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