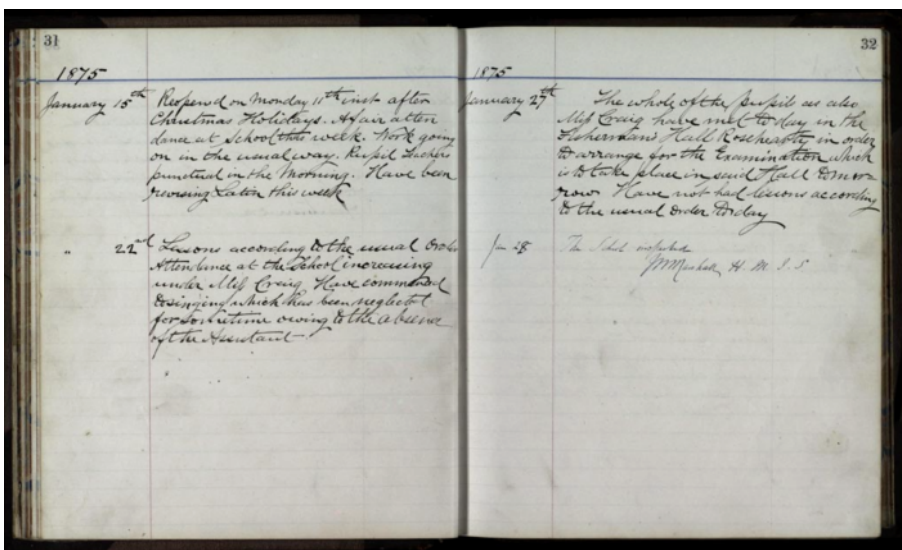


Education Records



Aberdeen City Archives

A Brief History of Schools and Schooling in Scotland

The system of educational provision by local authorities dates back to the 1872 Education (Scotland) Act. This Act established school boards in each parish and burgh in Scotland, with powers to erect schools, to take over and run existing schools, and to levy school fees and a local school rate to fund their activities.

The schools opened by the School Boards from 1872/3 aimed to provide an elementary education in reading, writing, arithmetic and religious instruction. Though education was compulsory, pupils were not obliged to attend public schools run by the School Board.

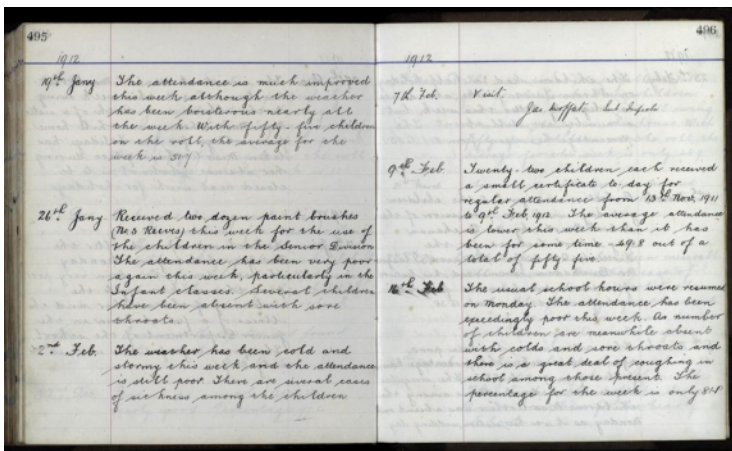
In 1885 the Scottish Education Department Higher Leaving Certificate was introduced, which served as the standard for admission to Scottish universities.

Until 1901 the requirement for pupils to attend school until the age of 13 years was relaxed for pupils over the age of 10, if they had reached the approved standard in the three Rs, and had secured employment. As a result, relatively few stayed on until they reached their thirteenth birthday.

There are very few records which pre-date the 1872 Education (Scotland) Act.

The records for each school may contain one or more of the following classes:

LOG BOOKS



The log book is a daily or weekly log or significant events which took place in the school, which the headteacher was required to keep by the annual Codes issued by the Scottish Education Department.

Log books usually note the arrival, departure and absence of teachers, alterations and additions to school buildings and visits of inspectors. Extracts from inspection reports, prizes won by school

teams and achievements of individual pupils may also be included.

Parts or all of some log books have been closed to public inspection, as they contain sensitive information on named individuals that cannot be made available to the public under the Data Protection Act (1998).

ADMISSION REGISTERS

A list of pupils attending the school, arranged by date of entry. For each pupil the admission register usually notes the date of admission, name, date of birth, address and name of parent or guardian. Space provided to record the date on which the pupil left the school, and the reason for leaving, is used more rarely - the usual reason given is 'age' which means the child had reached school leaving age. Some admission registers are indexed by surname of pupils.

LEFTS REGISTERS

A list of pupils who attended the school, arranged by date of departure. For each pupil the lefts register usually notes the date of admission, name, date of birth, address, date of departure, number of attendances and reason for leaving. Lefts registers survive more rarely than admission registers.

SCHOOL BOARD RECORDS

Minute Books record information on the running and administration of the school by the elected board members. Other records may include letter books and financial papers. The survival of such records from board to board is variable. Further information is available from staff at Aberdeen City Archives, Old Aberdeen House office.

PRE 1872 SCHOOLS

Information on some schools which operated before the establishment of the school boards may be gleaned from the organisation which administered the school, for example information on schools managed by churches may be found in the records of kirk sessions, held in the National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh. Some earlier schools were taken over by the school board and occasionally records before 1872 survive as they continued to be used by the board school teachers.

Generally there are few records of the many private schools in operation in the nineteenth-century, beyond the advertisements in the local press. Although records relating to endowments trusts and private schools may survive. For example, Aberdeen Endowments Trust records are held by Aberdeen City Archives. The records of Robert Gordon's School are held by the school.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are rare and only survive sporadically in the collections.

MISCELLANEOUS

A variety of miscellaneous records survive for schools such as centenary brochures, gardening registers, circulars etc... lists of these are provided in Old Aberdeen House Searchroom

Admission Number.	Date of Admission.			NAME (Christian and Surname).	Date of Birth.			Name and Address of Parent or Guardian.
	D.	M.	Y.		D.	M.	Y.	
1	9	10	73	Elsie Raeburn	22	12	66	Alex. Raeburn, Kirkton
2	6	10	74	Jessie Raeburn	31	12	68	do do
3	8	10	73	Margaret Nicol	23	4	66	William Nicol, Pitcair
4	30	10	75	Elizabeth Loyden Nicol	16	9	69	do do
5	13	10	73	Mary Gray	16	2	66	John Gray, do
6	29	5	76	Jane Gray	5	7	71	do do
7	8	10	75	Mary Spence	20	1	69	George Spence, Kirkton
8	9	10	74	Mary Low	3	7	67	Alex. Low do
9	23	10	76	Mary Leslie	16	12	68	James Leslie, Pitcair
10	6	11	76	Christina Forbes	2	9	70	Mrs Forbes, Millhead
11	6	10	75	Margaret Mennie	5	17	69	Alex. Mennie, Boghead, D
12	5	6	76	Elizabeth Adams	27	6	70	Adams, Balgair
13	23	4	76	Agnes Davidson	8	15	71	Mr. Marshall, Millhead
14	6	3	76	Margaret Findlater	21	7	70	Mrs. Findlater, Cowbryce
15	29	3	77	Mary Findlater	21	3	72	do do
16	1	10	75	Mary Barrack	2	10	71	Lewis Barrack, Millhead
17	14	5	77	Elizabeth Barrack	20	6	73	do do
18	23	10	76	Elizabeth Watt	11	1	68	John Watt, Netherton, Bal
19	24	9	76	Isabella Malcolm	27	6	68	Mrs. Malcolm, Pitcair
20	13	10	73	Henry Mennie	19	1	67	Mrs. Mennie, Boghead

Admission register for Chapel of Garioch school, 1873 - 1935

Aberdeen City Archives

Old Aberdeen House

Dunbar Street

Aberdeen

AB24 3UJ

Tel: 01224 481 775

Fax: 01224 495 830

Email: archives@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Open Monday to Wednesday 9.30 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 4.30

Limited parking is available

Staff are happy to give talks and arrange evening visits to the archives for interested groups . Please contact us for further information

Aberdeen City Archives

Town House

Broad Street

Aberdeen

AB10 1AQ

Tel: 01224 522513

Fax: 01224 638556

Email: archives@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Open Wednesday to Friday 9.30 - 4.30

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