

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

Title: RHONDDA [YSTRADYFODWG] SCHOOL BOARD

Dates : 1861-1905

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 0.24 cubic metres

Name of creator(s): Rhondda (Ystradyfodwg) School Board

Archival history

Administrative history

The inadequacy of the provision for elementary education before 1870 - largely provided by the National Society for Anglicans, the British and Foreign Society mainly for religious nonconformists, and the Catholic Poor Schools' Society - attracted the attention of education reformers and central government throughout the earlier part of the 19th century. Central government first introduced grants for the establishment of schools in 1833 and established the Committee of Council in 1839 largely to oversee the system; this was renamed the Education Department in 1861. General concern with the situation and religious debate led to the setting up of the Newcastle Commission 1861 but the complacency of the subsequent report was not welcomed. The urgency of providing elementary education in the industrial valleys of south Wales owing to the rapid influx of workers, and their families, to provide labour in the ironworks and particularly the coal-mines was widely appreciated.

Pressure from educational and religious bodies, and politicians, led to the passing of the Education Act 1870 setting up a system of School Boards. Boards were elected by members of burgesses in boroughs and ratepayers in rural areas, and although the powers given to the boards, the system was essentially adoptive before 1876 and education provided by them was neither free nor compulsory. School Boards, however, established school attendance committees and most sharply reduced or abolished fees. The establishment of boards often depended upon local demands and local concern for gaps in the provision of elementary education by the religious societies. School Boards, however, possessed the right of making elementary education compulsory in their areas and the advantage of being able to use local rates to cover costs. School Boards were also not expected to teach any particular form of religious education and, as a consequence, most of the British Society schools rapidly transferred to the boards after the Act. Without access to rates, religious educational societies suffered financially, and management of public elementary education was placed in the care of local education authorities under the Education Act 1902. These bodies - generally known as Part III

authorities - consisted of county boroughs (Cardiff, Swansea and Merthyr Tydfil, municipal boroughs with a population over 10,000 and urban districts over 20,000. Other areas were covered by Glamorgan County Council.

Ystradyfodwg School Board was established in 1878 to cater for the children of the large numbers of immigrants from other parts of Wales, England and Ireland arriving to work in the valley coal-mines, and initially covered only the historic parish of Ystradyfodwg (Ystrad) but responsibility was extended in 1895 to four schools under Llantrisant School Board (Dinas, Graig-ddu, Wiliamstown and Cymer) and three schools under Llanwonno (Llanwynno) School Board (Porth, Aberllechau and Blaenllechau). The board was renamed Rhondda School Board shortly afterwards. The school board established 40 elementary schools between 1878 and 1900 but was active also in secondary education through opening higher grade schools at Ton-pentre 1884, Ferndale 1892 and later at Tonypany, and a Pupil Teachers' Centre at Porth in 1893. Porth later acquired the Rhondda Intermediate School in 1896 and a higher grade school 1899.

Immediate source of acquisition

Mid Glamorgan County Council

Scope and content

Committee minutes and reports, registers of deeds, treasurer's accounts including registers of salaries, reports of the Committee of Council on Education and Education Department (of central government), and educational journals.

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records which meet the collection policy of the Glamorgan Record Office have been retained

Accruals

Accruals are not expected

System of arrangement

Arranged according to functional identity and date

Conditions governing access

Open access

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/scripts of material**Physical characteristics and technical requirements**

Fair to poor condition

Finding aids

Detailed list available.

Existence and location of originals**Existence and location of copies****Related units of description****Publication note**

A short summary of the growth of elementary, intermediate and secondary education is available in *The Rhondda Valleys. A Study in Industrial Development* by E.D. Lewis (London 1959)

Note

The records were earlier given the general collection reference code E/SB/58 and revised August 2006

Archivist's note

Compiled by Richard Morgan for the Glamorgan Record Office

Rules or conventions

This description follows Glamorgan Record Office guidelines based on ISAD(G) compatible cataloguing guidelines for fonds level descriptions used by the Archives Network Wales.

Date of description

August 2006

Committee records

ESB58/1	Minutes	1878-1885
ESB58/2	Minutes	1885-1888
ESB58/3	Minutes	1888-1889
ESB58/4	Minutes	1889-1891
ESB58/5	Minutes	1891-1892
ESB58/6	Minutes	1892-1894
ESB58/7	Minutes	1894-1895
ESB58/8	Minutes	1896
ESB58/9	Minutes	1896-1897
ESB58/10	Minutes	1897
ESB58/11	Minutes	1898
ESB58/12	Minutes	1899
ESB58/13	Minutes	1899-1900
ESB58/14	Minutes	1900-1901
ESB58/15	Minutes	1901-1902
ESB58/16	Minutes [16 vols.]	1902-1903
ESB58/17/1	Reports	1894-1899
ESB58/17/2	Reports [2 vols.; printed]	1899-1903

Clerk's records

ESB58/22	Register of deeds	1869-1894
ESB58/23	Register of deeds [2 vols.]	1861-1902

Treasurer's records

ESB58/37	Teachers' salaries accounts books	1879-1893
ESB58/18	Teachers' salaries accounts books	1893-1897
ESB58/19	Teachers' salaries accounts books	1898-1900
ESB58/20	Teachers' salaries accounts books	1900-1903
ESB58/21	Teachers' salaries accounts books [5 vols.]	1903-1905
ESB58/24-36	Accounts ledgers [13 vols.]	1879-1902
ESB58/38, 39	Cash books [2 vols.]	1882-1886

ESB58/40	<u>Miscellaneous records</u> Year book [1 vol.]	1899
ESB58/41/1-56	Reports with appendices of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales) [arranged annually 1869-1870, etc, with 2 vols. for 1872-1873] [56 vols.; printed]	1869-1902
ESB58/42/1-12	Education Department. Special Reports on Educational Subjects, vols. 1-11 [arranged annually with two vols. for 1902] [12 vols.; printed]	1897-1902
ESB58/43/1-4	Education Department. School Grants, Accounts and Loans [4 vols.; printed]	1896-1897, 1897-1898, 1899-1900, 1901
ESB58/44	Board of Education. Statistics of Elementary Day Schools, Evening Continuation Schools and Training Colleges [1 vol.; printed]	1900-1901
ESB58/45/1-6	School Board Gazette [6 vols.; printed]	1900-1902
ESB58/46/1, 2	School Board Chronicle, vols. 66 and 67 [2 vols.; printed]	Jul-Dec 1901 Jan-Jun 1902