

New Whittington Schools
London Street and Handley Road
1876-
(See Webster's Endowed Schools)

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London Street School, New Whittington. Photograph by Elizabeth Pemberton



Land at London Street, New Whittington, was purchased by the Websters' Whittington Schools Trust, and the contract to erect a school there was awarded to Mr Fiddler, a builder from Eckington. The newly-built Webster's Endowed School opened in 1876, with a house for the schoolmaster.

The Building News of 30/6/1876 states that it could accommodate 350 children, whereas Kelly's Directory of 1891 describes it as a mixed school designed to accommodate 420 older children and 220 infants when it opened. A very large discrepancy there, so the figures are unreliable. In 1889/90 it was enlarged, providing additional spaces for the increasing population. In 1891 the master was Herbert Needham and the mistress was Miss Charlotte Barker[1,2].

On 13/8/1889 the Derbyshire Courier reported that the school was temporarily closed to allow for disinfection following a case of scarlet fever at the schoolmaster's house.

The 1902 Education Act abolished School Boards and established Local Education Authorities.

In 1905 the Trustees agreed to lease the school to Chesterfield Council, the endowment being insufficient to provide the additional school accommodation demanded by the Board of Education, and in 1906 it was transferred to the Local Education Authority, with the Trust continuing to provide additional help for pupils in the parish.

In May 1912 a new school was opened by the council on Handley Road for 320 infants, allowing the older children to use the space vacated at London Street..

Handley Road School, New Whittington Photograph by Elizabeth Pemberton



The Derbyshire Times of 25/5/1912 describes the building as “light and airy”, with oak furniture and everything new and up-to-date.

In the Derbyshire Courier of 28/12/1912 it is reported that the residents of New Whittington had raised a petition for the reconstruction of the accommodation at London Street to include a room which could be used by the community for concerts etc., baths which residents could use for a small charge, and a swimming pool. There are several newspaper reports in later years regarding community events being held at the school, but no mention of baths or a swimming pool.

In 1931 the school two departments (infants and mixed) were amalgamated, operating as one school on the two sites [3].

In 1958 the Edwin Swale Secondary School (see Edwin Swale School) was opened for the senior pupils in the area. The London Street and Handley Road buildings were then used by the lower school (Infants and Juniors) and re-named the New Whittington Community Primary School. This is still open and continues to operate as a split-site school, administered by the “Learners Trust” Academy.

Newspapers are available at the British Newspaper Archives or Find My Past websites (both subscription sites)

Records 1876-1957 are held at Derbyshire Record Office D4092

Admission Registers and Log Books on Find My Past

[1] <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DBY/Whittington#Schools>

[2] <https://www.andrewsgen.com/dby/kelly/whittington.htm>

[3] Derbyshire Record Office