



Britford School c1906

School History of Britford

A National school was opened in 1853 in Britford; it was for both boys and girls.

It was described in 1878 as a well-built but rather low brick building about 50 feet by 18 feet. This was school to 30 children. They were taught by one school mistress.

Although there are no particular records for this school; this general information is relevant to schools of that era. Fees were paid for each child up until 1891; normally the rate would be 1d. a week. This would be collected by the school teacher.

School holidays would have been similar to today, especially the Summer holidays, which were called the Harvest Holidays as the children often helped their parents with the harvest. But there were also unauthorized absences, for things like haymaking and late harvesting. Also children would often be kept home in bad weather because parents couldn't afford boots or warm clothing.

Subjects were mainly the 3 r's, singing and with scripture from the local vicar. Older children were taught geography and history.

By the beginning of the 20th century 30 of the 80 children were from the local workhouse.

In 1909, 82 children were registered at the school. By the start of WWI this had dropped slightly to 76.

Shortly after the start of the WWII, at least 7 evacuees were being taught at the school.

By 1955 there were only 24 children although 7 years later it had risen to 42.

By 2010 because of low numbers it was decided to merge Britford with Odstock School.

The current school on the site which is now called Longford, was built in 1959.