

Shirley School – 1970 - 1995

Overview

The school opened as an Infants School on 19 September 1932 in Green End Road, Chesterton, Cambridge. It took children from the Infants section of St Andrew's C of E School in High Street Chesterton, which then became a Junior School.

The history of the school is recorded in seven documents, this being number 6. The history as an Infants school has been done using the Cambridgeshire Archive, the Cambridgeshire Collection, a Log Book (1911-1960) and Manager's Meetings (1932-1991).

The Log Book was found during the relocation of Shirley Infants School from its original site in Green End Road to the site it now occupies in Nuffield Road when, on the closure of St Andrew's Junior School 31/08/2006, it became Shirley Nursery and Primary School.

The Log Book provides school activities as follows

Detail for Saint Andrews CoE School Jan 9 1911- Sept 16 1932

Detail for Shirley School Sept 19 1932- Nov 9 1960

There is no Log Book record found for the 1970 onward. The following has been taken from the records of the Manager's Meetings.

Manager's Meetings

Oct 1974

Miss Westwood's second year at the school, approximate 300 children 70 part time

HT

8 ft teachers

3 pt teachers

2 nursery asst

2 general asst

2 clerical Asst part time

Caretaker Mr Anstey

Cleaner

Canteen run by Mrs Skinner

3 dinner supervisors

Hall and 10 classrooms

Sept 1975

Role 288 173 over 5 115 under 5

Head wanted to buy a colour television

Not a community school but encouraging community use as premises under used.

24 Feb 1978

Meeting to discuss the report by the working party on the reorganisation of Shirley School.

Head had met with Mr Spreadbury.

(Note: As far as can be made out there was a **proposal for 2 Junior Mixed Infant schools**)

Shirley and St Andrews with St Andrews moving to a new school)

Head concerned over polarisation rivalry. Managers concerned too close, play area too small for older children and classrooms and toilets. Why have two all through school when existing infants is already good.?

Meeting set for March 17.

Authority working party St Shire Hall May 17. Any proposals to vary the existing character of the school to be strongly and unanimously resisted.

Mr Barraclough head at St Andrews 1978 Mr Nightingale 1979

Jan 28 1980

Caravan Site 'there are 17 children at the school from the caravan site in Fen Road. There is talk of closing the site down and turning the families off. The children need extra help educationally but are very well behaved. The gaps in their education occur while travelling around. Ms Westwood mentioned that truancy was not a great problem at the school and was usually the parents fault due to not getting up etc The welfare Officer receives welfare reports about any suspicious child and calls at the house to enquire about health etc ' roll 253

Sept 1982 Opening of special assessment unit approximate 8 children

21 May 1984 Mrs Stephens appointed correspondent

Sept 1984

Ms Westwood seconded for 1 year Mrs Igham acting head Miss Sinclair Acting DH

1986 Mrs Dawn Daly Head Teacher

October 1986

Mrs Daly reported a lot of children in mainstream with SEN, be it E2L or behaviour aim is to involve parents more. Wants to provide a positive learning environment decorating corridors with children's work

June 1989 Mrs Rees-Johnson Acting HT Mrs Daly still in post at this time.

Feb 1991 Date of last recorded minutes in Minute Book. Mrs Rees-Johnson Head

End of entries from Manager's Minutes

1995

See below for details of the lease to the Scout Association for building of accommodation for the Scouts and space shared with the School

Legal Documents held by Cambridgeshire Archives related to the Shirley School in this period

1969 CCC purchase 188 Kendal Way from Cambs Corporation for £3250. This becomes the caretaker's house for Shirley Infants School. This house was later sold by the CCC after the school relocated. The caretaker's house previously occupied by the caretaker for St Andrew's School in Mortlock Avenue was then used by Shirley Primary School.

1995 Lease to The Scout Association

In 1988 the Scout Hut on land in Chesterton for the 54th Cambridge (St George's) Scouts was burnt down, however they benefitted at this point from the sale of their land. This left the Group, with considerable funds but nowhere to meet. Having approached other organisations in the Chesterton area without success the Group entered discussions with the Governors of Shirley Infants School. The Scouts proposed to build their headquarters and rooms, plus accommodation for the school and shared with the school, including a hall, in the grounds of the school. A new access road would also be built off the main driveway. After full discussions, this was agreed.

A lease was granted on 10 July 1995 by the Landlord, Cambridgeshire County Council to the Scout Association Trust Corporation as Tenant. The lease was for 125 years at a peppercorn rent. There was a Deed of Variation 28 March 2013 1.23 Shirley Infant School includes any successor school

Cambridge District Scout Archive reports

(54th) it suffered a major setback when the hut was burned down in 1988 (suspected arson). Selling the land at the height of property boom they benefitted by the crash that occurred shortly afterwards and built the new 54th. They ran on in Chesterton until 2018 when they finally closed. The building became the new District HQ.

<https://cambridgedistrictscoutarchive.com/54th-cambridge/>