

A Short History of the School on Wold Road

Concentrating on The Early Days



80 years old on 18/4/19

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1 – INTRODUCTION

This Short History was the idea of Jo Rowell, then at Wold Academy. Based upon the research that YD and I (as former pupils from 1945 – 51) had already started, it concentrates upon the first few years of the school, from its opening in 1939, through WW2, and in the subsequent 6 years when the author was a pupil. Further information is presented concerning subsequent years, and comparisons are made between the early Wold Road School with the present Wold Academy. The information has been researched from various documents together with the memories of past pupils.

The School Log Book and Pupils' Register were available at Beverley Archives, and we were fortunate to have access because the law has since changed so that such documents cannot be easily accessed until 100 years have passed, in our case 2039 onwards!

It is anticipated that this Short History will be separately complemented by a more detailed coverage of the school during our years there, based upon the recollections of YD, with her amazing memory!

Please contact me (sandra2david@yahoo.com) if you find any significant errors, or are able to provide further information for around the time we were at the school, particularly photographs.

2 – DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Control of Schools. As a result of the 1902 Education Act all schools (except public schools) were controlled by their Local Authority, in our case, Hull. Their Education Department would provide and maintain the school buildings, appoint and pay the teachers and advise on teaching methods and content. However, it was the school head who had the final say on the subjects and way in which the pupils were taught, with some freedom given to the class teacher.

There were no external exams at primary level until pupils were about to leave, when they had to take the '11 Plus' to help decide what type of secondary school they should attend. Then in the late 1980's, all schools had to follow the same National Curriculum set by the Government. So external examinations (SATS) began for children at the end of infants aged 7, and at the end of juniors at 11. Her Majesty's Inspectors began in Victorian times. Wold Road School was regularly inspected by locally based HMIs who would be individuals appointed for a specific subject, such as the 'HMI of Handicraft'. OFSTED was formed at the same time as the National Curriculum, with inspections starting in the early 1990s.

A major change occurred in 2010 when the first academies opened, with Wold Academy opening in 2013. Academies are funded directly by the Government and have freedom not to follow the National Curriculum, but are still inspected by OFSTED.

3 –BACK TO THE BEGINNINGS

- **The late 1930s** When the new Wold Road School opened, Britain was starting to recover from years of The Depression. However, there was also an expectation of another war, this only 20 years since 'the war to end all wars' (WW1) had finished. Nevertheless, life had to go on and future plans had to be made regardless.

Much effort was being put into domestic war preparations, such as air-raid shelters and gas masks, but the long-term future was not forgotten. Education and health were vital, and new primary schools were being built all over Britain.

Entertainment also was not forgotten, and there were over 30 cinemas and 70 dance halls in Hull alone! Most houses had a radio, and some even had television - but about 20,000 people near London, and then only for a few hours daily on tiny screens in black and white.

On the day the school opened, the Radio Times of that week shows that National Radio started at 10.15 in the morning and closed at midnight. The programmes were mostly recorded music and news, but the highlight for children was Children's Hour at 5pm. The BBC thought that programmes specially for schools were important, and these were first broadcast to some schools as early as 1927.

TV had only 3hrs of broadcasting, divided between the afternoon and evening. There were several short items of entertainment and news, with the highlight of the week being a 1hr variety performance from the London Coliseum.

- **New School** The Derringham Area in 1930's Hull was extending its boundaries to those we see now. This was a pleasant area to live in, with new housing, a variety of shops, good contact with the city, and bordering the countryside. Wold Road was being populated by young couples and thus there was a need for a new school in addition to the then nearest, Ainthorpe Grove School (opened in 1932, enlarged 1935).

In 1934 Hull Education Committee first proposed new schools on Wold Road and Priory Road and a joint tender was advertised in the Hull Daily Mail in 1937 (*see photo*). Both schools opened 2 years later, on the same day, **Tuesday April 18th 1939**. Our school was built on about 12 acres of farmland (4.8hectares) costing £3,050, with the building costs of £19,217/4s/6d (precisely!).

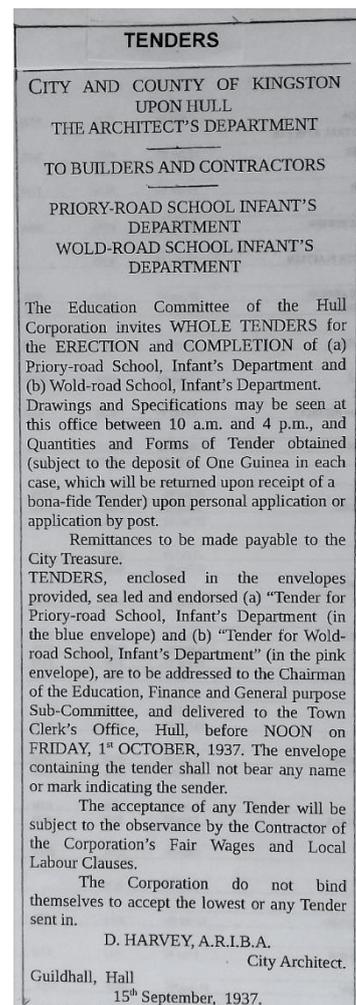
Wold Road School began with the Head (Miss Dawson) plus 9 teachers and also a part-time caretaker-cum-cleaner (Mr Daniels).

275 children between the ages of 5 and 9 were admitted that day, and within a week, 320 pupils had registered – and one teacher had been posted to another school! It was designed to accommodate 400 pupils and was a single U-shaped building block, with only 4 classrooms. They catered for any overflow by sending some pupils to the larger Ainthorpe Grove – though it is thought this only happened once. The 5 air-raid shelters were of course separate.

A case was made in 1945 to expand because of the increase of young families in the locality, and 2 prefabricated huts, each housing 2 classes, were constructed until the northern blocks were opened around 1953. The 'temporary' huts then housed classes for the Partially Sighted from all over Hull.

In 1969 Hull CC adopted a Junior High policy (for ages 5 - 14) and this lasted until 1984, when the school reverted to Primary, including also Nursery classes.

There were no major changes to the buildings for more than 60 years until they were replaced by the new Wold Academy in 2016.



- **Initial Inventory** As one might imagine, there are a huge number of items to be acquired by a new school, from chalk to dustbins to first aid equipment to school books. It seemed to be the job of the Head to list each item, and from the stock books (which still exist, called the Day Book) it must have left her very little time for anything else!

The bulk of the equipment for the April 18th opening was entered on March 30th, the very first item being: "Jeyes Sanitary Paper-12 packets" (Not very nice to use!). There were 300 items entries for that day, each written in a meticulous hand by the Head.

Here are the entries for the first page (of 6), all dated March 30th :

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Jeyes Sanitary Paper (12pkts) | - Coir mat (1) |
| - Percussion instruments (1set) | - Clock (1) |
| - Weaving needles (48) | - Pins (6 boxes) |
| - Weaving bodkins (48) | - Paper un gummed shts (4qus) |
| - Card looms (96) | - Steps (1pr) |
| - Card rings (3pkts) | - C F mats 42"x26" (5) |
| - Charles' Binders (3) | - Bd of Ed pamphlets no.110 |
| - Slav Crash (12yds) | - Bd of Ed Admin Mem no.51 |
| - Ostwald cotton (24ozs) | - Bd of Ed Suggs on Health Ed. |
| - Desk bell (1) | - Bd of Ed Suggs for Teachers |
| - Standard building bricks | - Weighing machine (1) |
| - Time Table frame (1) | - Triangular see-saw (1) |

Belatedly, on June 23rd, 2 footballs were ordered.

There were also lists of books for March 30th, these being the first of many:

- *Beacon BkII** (24)
- *First Steps for Tiny Folk* (48)
- *Ring a Roses* (48)
- *Romance of Reading BkI* (12)
- *Literary & Drama Reader I* (12)
- *Treasure Trove Reader I* (12)
- *The Young Observers I* (12)
- *Golden Nature Reader I* (12)

(*Usually whole set I to IV was ordered)

4 – ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

Even from the early days (nearly 10 years before the NHS emerged) there was an emphasis on caring. This was extremely difficult in the first months because of the disruption caused by Evacuation. Class sizes were up and down like a yo-yo, and some teachers were moved to and from other schools. They did not even have a party that first Christmas!

By 1940, the school's second year, although the war and its effect on Hull was intensifying, caring, as indicated in the Log Book was becoming more established with frequent visits by the Medical and Dental Officers. In June a Cleanliness Survey was carried out by the School Nurse. The Education Committee appointed an Organiser of Physical Training to cover the Hull area.

There is no reference in the Log Book to school meals, and it is thought that these, which were delivered to the school from elsewhere, were not available at this time. This was not too important because at that time the mother would be at home in most families, and all the houses were within walking distance. (No one able to walk would be taken to school in a car!). Milk in 1/3-pint bottles was delivered early every day, and in winter this had sometimes frozen by breaktime! (The circular cardboard tops, with a central hole, were useful for making pom-poms in needlework).

Exercise was important, with an annual Sports Day, and weekly swimming at Albert Avenue baths. Children in any case always walked to school and were very active in the playground, girls often skipping and boys playing ball-games. In school, we had music and dance (not very popular with the boys!), coupled with bean bag and hoop activities, for example. Many present-day non-teaching activities were missing. For example, I do not recall any inter-school sports competitions - not even soccer!

We were also encouraged to save. The school had a 'bank' and some children took maybe 6d weekly (equivalent to our 2.5p, but worth the same as about £1 now), and this was transferred, if it totalled £1, to the local Derringham Savings Bank (sadly closed in 2018) to earn 2.5% interest.

There was no PTA (Parent Teacher Association), although sometimes parents were called to the school to be told about emergency arrangement for air raid warnings, evacuees etc. Neither were there Parents' Evenings, and I cannot recall my parents ever going to the school, even though they always encouraged me at home.

5 – EFFECT OF WORLD WAR 2

At the School: Within 5 months of the school opening, war was declared. This was not unexpected, with gas masks having been distributed and many domestic air-raid shelters already built. There were 5 sizeable shelters at the school which were regularly used for practice but, fortunately, rarely for real. The threat of bombing was reduced by not having any heavy industry in the area, but nowhere was totally safe.

As would be expected, the war caused a major disruption to education, even though it was not expected to last many months. From notes made in the Log Book, the first reference to the war was about 2 months before it began on July 10th 1939 when Mrs. Scotney attended a meeting held at the College of Arts and Crafts in connection with evacuation procedures.

The first summer term ended on July 28th, and it was a month later, on August 26th (a week before war was declared) that the teachers were preparing for an 'Emergency Evacuation of Schoolchildren'. This

was rehearsed two days later, with teachers, parents and children present.

On Sept 1st the school roll was 344, and evacuation began with a Miss O'Brian drafted in to accompany the children. (Oddly there was no log book entry for 2 months - presumably an indication of the challenging situation). The next roll recorded was not until early December, with only 140 children remaining. After that the figures fluctuated with new admissions and some evacuees returning. Understandably, there was no Christmas Party that year, although it was restored in all subsequent years.

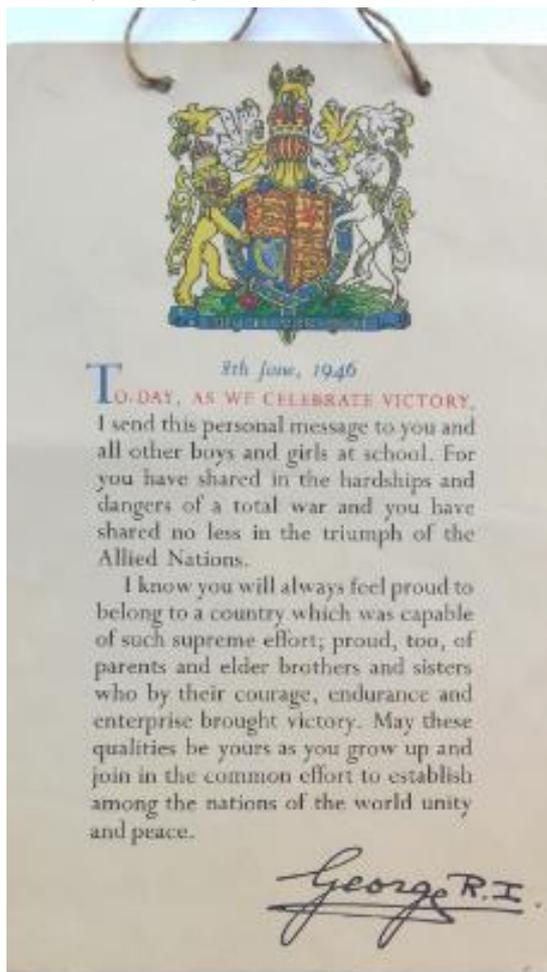
There were 203 children recorded at the start of 1940, and by Easter the school was full with 400 on the roll and 24 on the Waiting List. Soon after, preparations were made for another round of evacuation, 192 being eligible, but only 75 registered and it appears that only 42 actually left. Most of these went to Malton, and some to Scarborough. This took place at the beginning of July.

The first bombs fell on Hull on June 20th 1940 and the first temporary closure of the school, as a result of an air raid warning, occurred 6 days later. Closures happened a further 10 times over the next 6 weeks. Strangely, over the subsequent 5 years of the war, there were relatively few Log Book references made directly to the war. Despite several periods of intensive bombing over Hull, the only documented closure due to an air-raid warning was in February 1942. However, the Log Book records many instances of teachers being absent, sometimes because of bomb damage affecting their family, and sometimes the need to be with their husbands on leave or injured, usually in hospital in another city.

One ex-pupil said that she remembers the school air-raid practice drills, but not involving the school air-raid shelters. Also, she thought that the warnings seemed to increase towards the end of the war, despite fewer attacks. (There were 82 attacks on Hull, but ten times as many warnings). Almost all the air-raids took place at night, and if the sirens went off 3 or more times after midnight she did not have to attend school the next day.

War-related events included talks by military staff, for example by a Naval Officer. In September 1944 both the Lord Mayor and Sheriff visited to present a certificate for the money collected in 'Salute the Soldier Week.' Parents met at the school occasionally to be given advice on fire watching etc.

When the war finished in Europe on May 6th 1945 the school closed for 2 days soon afterwards for the 'Cease Fire' celebrations, and the final mention of WW2 in the Log Book was in June the following year when Alderman Lawson distributed Commemoration Cards in connection with the Victory Celebrations (*see photo*). At this time the school roll was 489.



Near the School: Of course, everyone was affected by hardships such as rationing, home blackout routines, sheltering during alerts and attacks and usually the man in the household would be away fighting. Few bombs fell in our school catchment area. The nearest was about a quarter of a mile from the school, in Worcester Road (*see photo*). It demolished houses, causing several deaths, and houses over a wide area were damaged to some extent. (Ex-pupil JAS lived only a few doors away, and SH recollects that one of her friends was injured). Residents most badly affected were told to go to the school initially until their house could be deemed safe, or sadly, demolished. A German doodlebug (with the frightening 'phut phut' noise of its engine) fell in the nearby Springhead area.

SH, who was 6 when the war started, also recalls that she and her mother were issued with adult gas masks but her younger sister was given a Mickey Mouse mask coloured red and blue. Both her brothers were born at home, and one was a difficult birth with the baby needing a home incubator. Of course, they all had to go into their quite small Anderson shelter on hearing the alarm.

One dark evening in December 1942, an RAF Airspeed Oxford aircraft crashed into a pair of houses on Wold Road opposite the school, just clipping the chimney of a nearby house. Sadly the young Polish trainee pilot died. He was on a solo flight and had run out of fuel, having lost his way back to base. However, the occupants were very lucky. Earlier there had been 12 people in the houses, but one family had gone to the Priory Cinema and the other parents had taken their baby to see friends. Amazingly, the 3 remaining children in the house were all down stairs and survived uninjured. Although the buildings were severely damaged, they were soon rebuilt and the families able to return.



On their way to school, many children would pass a large water reservoir for use in the event of fires. It had been built on the site of what is now Odd Bottle pub. Of course the reservoir was fenced off, but that was largely ignored by children. They would also be busy playing marbles in the gutter, 'flicking' cigarette cards, skipping or buying sweets at the shop opposite. SH recalls the sensors installed every so often down Wold Road which would detect gas by changing colour, though thankfully gas was never used by the enemy in the air-raids.

One major change to the area was the construction of many huts on either side of and along the length of nearby Wymersley Road. It was a military camp (several of which appeared within a few miles radius), and at various times it appears to have been used for prisoners-of-war (German and Italian?), for aliens normally residing in this country (mainly German), for foreign allies in need of housing (Poles), for allied servicemen's families (American), and finally for a period after the war for British families displaced by bombing.

I can recall being given small grey coloured coins (pfennigs?) by one of the foreign men near the local shops, and there are some memories of Wymersley Road residents befriending the hut occupants.

Many of the local men were absent from their families, and most of those who remained were in the Civil Defence, Fire Watch or Home Guard, in addition to their normal daytime jobs. Many wives and other women had to go to work to take over the jobs vacated by the servicemen. Most of the houses in our locality had good sized gardens making the growing of vegetables possible, and in some cases, chickens and rabbits were kept for eggs and meat.

When the war was over, there was rejoicing, and many local parties (*see photo*) were held (especially down our ten-foots), both for VE Day in May 1945, and the final war end with VJ Day in the August.



6 - AFTER THE WAR.

Children starting in 1945 (like me) were the first to benefit from the important 1944 Education Act, which recognised the vital importance of education. At last there was a Government Department of Education, which provided funding. It established free, compulsory nationwide education for all 5 to 15yr olds (to be raised to 16 in 1972 – and nowadays 18). Schools were controlled by their Local Education Authority (though there could be some exceptions, such as church schools) who were responsible for the teaching staff and for support services such as medical treatment, milk etc. The Act made Religious Education and a daily Act of Worship a statutory requirement, but this also allowed parents to withdraw their children if

they wished to.

In 1945 I started school late, in the middle of the Autumn term, due to being in Cottingham Sanatorium (now Castle Hill Hospital) isolation ward for 7 weeks with scarlet fever. This disease is now readily treated with antibiotics but was life-threatening then.

Rationing was still a problem, and for some items, such as bread (newly rationed), the situation deteriorated before it improved, largely due to exporting food to other European countries who were much worse off than us, including Germany. However, for children it saw the reappearance of ice cream (from such as Penna's, Stipetick and Riley's) and bananas. Sweets were one of the last items to come off-ration, in 1953 (having first been attempted in 1947).

The purpose-built library now at the far end of Wold Road replaced a brick building that was the HQ of the Local Civil Defence and Home Guard before becoming a well-used library soon after the war, with a good children's section which children could join when they were 8.

7 - ORGANISATION WITHIN THE SCHOOL

In the early years the Head did most of the organising, there being no Secretary nor a named Deputy Head. The Head did not carry out regular class teaching, but presumably had to stand-in for absent teachers, especially being so few of them. Besides completing the Log Book almost daily, she had to make detailed lists of school equipment, all usually in impeccable handwriting.

The Head was in close contact with the Hull Education Department, with teachers frequently moving due to demands in other parts of the city. In addition, she was responsible for visitors such as nurses, dentists, police, school inspectors, and of course the day-to-day contact with parents.

Mr Daniels was a combined cleaner and caretaker (followed in 1950 by Mr Harmer). He would help unload all the crates of milk, pile heaps of coke for the boiler as well as clean the class-room and toilets.

Swimming classes were held at Albert Avenue Baths (still existing), using a special bus.

There was no 'central' library in the school, each class organising its own appropriate to the age group. This is generally the case today.

8 – SCHOOL STAFF

Mainly because of the war, all the teachers were female. The first man appointed at Wold Road School was Mr R Brown in 1947 (as 1 of 11 staff) and by 1951 this had risen to 3 men. Surprisingly, the ratio has hardly changed much over the years, currently throughout the country only 15% of primary school teachers are male, with about a quarter having none.

Married female teachers were barred from teaching until 1944, and married couples in the same school were not allowed until the early 1960's. However, our Mrs Scotney must have had special permission in 1939.

The typical class size was about 40 when the school opened, then this fluctuated wildly due mainly to the evacuations. At the end of the war it exceeded 50, and nowadays it is around 30. There were no teaching assistants until this century.

A teacher would start on just over £3 per week in 1939 - but a bread loaf then only cost 9d (4p). Equal pay with men was achieved in 1961, ahead of most professions.

<i>SCHOOL OPENS</i>	//	<i>I STARTED</i>			//	<i>I FINISHED</i>		
April 1939	//	Sept 1945	Class	No.	//	April'51	Class	No.
Miss Dawson	//	Miss Dawson			//	Miss Fewson		
Miss Lewis	//	Miss Duggelby	IV	51	//	Mrs Lee	IVa	48
Miss Hanson	//	Mrs. Scotney	IIIa	51	//	Miss Gibson	IVb	47
Miss White	//	Mrs. Lee	IIb	52	//	Mrs Madden	IIIa	47
Mrs Scotney	//	Mrs. Garnett	IIa	51	//	Mr Relton	IIIb	47
Miss Cornley	//	Miss Sugden	IIb	51	//	Mrs Scotney	II	47
Miss Bell	//	Miss Brown	I	53	//	Mr Inkster	Ia	50
Miss Claxton	//	Miss Pilling	Cl.1	49	//	Miss Mitchell	Ib	51
Miss Gray	//	Mrs Dunn	Cl.2	48	//	Mrs Bryass	Cl.1	50

275 pupils (Av:34)	//	Mrs Thompon	Cl.3	44	//	Miss Fish	Cl.2	50
		Miss Lewis	Cl.4	39	//	Miss Pilling	Cl.3	50
		(Av: 49)		489	//	Mrs Austin	Cl.4	24
						(Av: 46)		511

Then and Now

This section will show the remarkable changes which now benefit our children.

Wold Road School for most of its time just had aged 5 – 11 (Infants + Juniors), whereas Wold Academy currently caters for children from aged 2 to 11. It is difficult to make a precise comparison of staffing levels between then and now because of lack of information for Wold Road School support staff.

Today however, we have much smaller classes (approaching 30, rather than 50 then) and different teaching methods (with Teaching Assistants). Also, there are more activities now, such as before and after school clubs to help look after children of working parents. (It was rare for both parents to be working in the early days).

In April 1951 there were 511 pupils, aged 5 – 11, and 11 classes. (All classes about 50 pupils, except for the smaller Reception). There were only 12 Qualified Teachers including the Head, who presumably would cover teacher emergency absences.

In 2018 at WA the approximate figures are that for the same age group there are similarly about 500 pupils, but in nearer to 20 classes. There are 25 - 30 Qualified Teachers actively teaching, supported by 30 Teaching Assistants – totalling nearly 60 teachers with direct classroom duties....to compare with 12 in the very early years!

What better indication is there of the improvement in education!

There are no figures available for those who helped to feed and maintain Wold Road School, but my estimate is about 5 in total (school lunch was delivered by van daily rather than cooked on site). For the much busier Wold Academy, the equivalent figure is around 14.

Whereas there was only the Head to run Wold Road School, Wold Academy typically has 4 Executive Staff, 2 of which do not normally teach. Such a team is needed because the total number of people involved in running the school is around 90, all of whom need to be administered and organised. There are so many issues to consider today, for example Health and Safety Laws.

The main reason for this increase can be seen from the overall number of activities, not dreamt of in the 1950s. These include the Foundation Classes (for aged 2 – 4), the Pastoral/Behaviour/Inclusion Team, the Cover Team, the Breakfast and Buzz Clubs. Whew!

9 – LESSONS

Compared with today, the lessons were very formal with desks neatly arranged in rows and columns. Pupils who were doing well were usually seated nearer to the front.

The children initially wrote on small blackboards with chalk, the progressed onto paper and pencil, and finally left school with the ability to write 'joined up' with an ink dip-pen on paper. (For me, being left-handed, pens were a nightmare because the nib would push into the paper, causing numerous blots).

As now, the class teacher generally took all the lessons. These were broadly similar to today's subjects, though the teaching methods were different. We had books such as Beacon Readers, and exercise books in the older classes, but of course there were no computers and whiteboards. Instead the teacher used a blackboard and chalk, which made a lot of dust! (One child was appointed as 'board rubber monitor' responsible for cleaning the rubber).

There was no homework, and no school reports, though oddly, my wife who attended Priory Road School did have annual reports to take home. (Priory Road, remember, is a twin of Wold Road School, both opening on the same day).

There were no external exams such as SATS, but we had frequent tests and pupils knew 'where they came' in the class. However, we did have one important external exam in our final term, the 11 Plus which determined which secondary school we went to. This was spread over 2 days, and we had to walk to Ainthorpe School to sit it.

Today's pupils would recognise most of the lessons: Arithmetic / English / Geography / History / Religious Instruction / Nature Study / Music / Games. These were taught as separate subjects, compared to

today's approach which tends to integrate them into topics or projects.

No **Foreign Language** was taught, but in the 1960s French was on the syllabus, and today there are Spanish lessons at Wold Academy .

Handwork was popular, and most people of that time will remember the things they made: Bank book holders / kettle handle holders / pom-poms / Christmas decorations etc.

English would comprise separate Reading / Writing / Comprehension / Story-telling, much like today, together with the more enthusiastic pupils acting in plays.

In **Maths**, we had to learn the 'times-tables' up 12x, do money sums (*with its pounds / half-crowns / florins / shillings / sixpences / threepenny bits / pence / half-pence / farthings*, plus a few others! Also weights *such as ton / hundredweight / stone / pound / ounce* (again, plus a few others). And then measuring *with miles / furlongs / chains / yards / feet / inches*.

Life would have been very much easier using only the metric system, with its metres, grams and decimals. Unfortunately today's 'metric' children have also to be familiar with some of the Imperial!

Nature Study involved trips to a local stream and fields, and we had a small class garden.

For **Games**, we had soccer (boys), netball (girls), rounders and swimming. In addition to these, today you have such sports as rugby, table tennis, athletics, gymnastics and cricket. There were no competitive sports involving other schools, though we did have an annual Sports' Day (with small cash prizes!).

The highlight of **Religious Instruction** was the Christmas Nativity play, with carols. Throughout the year, there were hymns and religious stories, but no mention of different religions (other than Christianity).

In **Music**, in addition to singing there were various bands using the familiar percussion instruments: castanets, triangles, drums, cymbals and tambourine. The more skilled played the recorder (taught at school), the piano and one girl in our class, the accordion. We also enjoyed listening to the Rediffusion Radio, 'Music and Movement' for example. Dance was not too popular with the boys, though we all joined in the singing, for example, The Lincolnshire Poacher, and Bobby Shaftoe and many others which I still remember.

The radio was also very helpful for other subjects, such as English, History, Geography and Nature Study. Of course there was no television in those days, not until the 1960s, the only visuals being a simple projector and the epidiascope (which projected a drawing or book page onto a screen. Over the years the tape recorder and overhead projector came and went, and nowadays we have the marvellous computer projection system. (What next? Virtual Reality?)

10 - SELECTED MEMORIES (by JAS/RA/DS/DJW)

- In 1945 when I first went to school, with my mother. We both cried a bit.
- I remember that at age 8, I was still struggling to read (unheard of today). I was not expected to pass the 11 plus exam, but did to everyone's amazement.
- Earliest memory was having to go to school on the day my Dad came home from the army at the end of the war. I think that I got the morning off!
- Short trousers were the order of the day, all year round until I was in the second or third year at senior school. Winters brought on cold wet weather, resulting in chapped legs just below the knee where the top of your wellies rubbed.
- I rarely had school meals, I was near enough to walk home for lunch. It must have been bad when it was raining because I doubt if these were many dry clothes to change into to go back. I suppose they "lightened" in front of the fire while I had lunch, only to get wet again on the way back. I remember the smell of wet / damp wool in the classrooms on rainy days.
- Only one teacher comes to memory, Miss Gibson. Miss Dawson was a formidable head - the mothers were more frightened of her than the pupils were.
- Once we were lined up and asked to show our hands to the teacher, those with suitable finger tips were

- offered a chance to learn to play the recorder - instead of playing football (what choice!) I never learned to play a musical instrument and my football skills were never much either.
- We had to go to Ainthorpe Grove School to take the Eleven Plus, on two Saturday mornings. We were given (lent) three or four well-sharpened pencils for the exam.
 - Food parcels (tins of fruit) from Canada were handed out to all children over 8. I was *nearly* 8 and didn't get one, and have never forgotten my disappointment.
 - My only ever stage appearance was as one of the Three Kings in a Nativity play, in the school hall. My mother made a cloak (which was praised) out of some fleecy material.
 - As a short cut, we used to climb through a hole in the fence opposite the hall play-ground and walking home down a ten-foot onto Coronation Rd.
 - My only ever fight, aged about 8, was on a cinder path near the reservoir opposite the shops. There was a crowd of boys all around, and I think it was a draw!
 - In my early years, one boy was a bully. I bribed him with 1 penny not to bully me - and he never did again!
 - In craft, we weaved using a cardboard loom, and our mothers had to line them and sew up into bankbook holders or purses.
 - Also in craft, winding wool or raffia around cardboard milk bottle tops with a hole in, then cutting around edge and tying to make a pom-pom.
 - In the hall, listening to Schools' Programmes on the big radio speaker (Rediffusion), about 3 ft square with the circular speaker in the middle.
 - As a milk monitor, I remember the frozen bottles of milk, with the expanding ice pushing up their tops.

11 - TIMELINES

Head Teachers (now called Principals)

REF	HEAD	SCHOOL	IN POST	YEARS
1	Miss Dawson	Inf+Jun	1939-53	24
2	Miss Fewson	"	1953-84	31
3	Miss Locking	Jun High	?1953-69	16?
4	Mrs Woods	"	?1969-78	9?
5	Mr Elliott	"	1978-81	3
6	Mr Clark	"	1981-03	2
7	"	Wold Primary	1983-03	20
8	Mr Lodge	"	2003-08	5
9	Mr Jackson	"	2009-13	4
10	Mrs Charlesworth	Wold Academy	2014-15	1
11	Mrs Lewis	"	2015-17	2
12	Ms Carn	"	2017-?	3

Buildings

1934 – First proposed by Hull Education Committee.

1937 – Tenders requested.

1938 – Building started

1939 – Single block open - Combined Infants + Juniors

1939 - Air-raid shelters added.

1944 – Overcrowding meant the final year Juniors were transferred to Ainthorpe Senior School and called Junior A there.

1945 – Proposals for a new block.

1946 – 2 'temporary' huts added, each with 2 classes. - Air-raid shelters demolished.

1953 – New block - now separate Infants and Juniors

– Partially-sighted pupils taught in vacated huts.

1969 – Separated into Primary + Junior High (9 – 13 yrs).

1974 – Governed by the new Humberside County Council

– Nursery class added.

1988 – Primary took over Junior High building, (reverting to 5 - 11yrs)

1996 – Reverted to Hull City Council

2013 - Became Wold Academy (DRET)

2016 -Wold Academy moved into new building, old buildings demolished (*see photo*).



12 – SNIPPETS

1 – In our time, big old (copper) pennies were scraped on walls and the resulting brick dust used to polish the coin with your finger (try it!). There was a wall of the school where the marks were clearly visible, even as the buildings were being demolished.

2 –The War was on when some children started at this school in 1939 and 1940, and we were still at war when they finished at Wold Road School.

3 – We never had any homework!

4 – When Hull Fair re-started after the war, the school was closed for 2 afternoons so that children could visit the Fair.

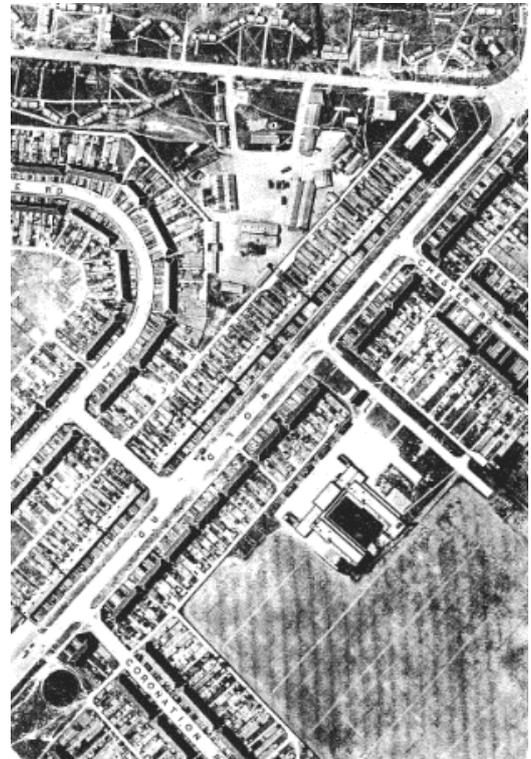
5 – Towards the end of the War, the Head of another local school scattered peanuts on the playground for the children to eat (presumably in their shells!). Few had seen them before.

6 – In the Log Book kept by the Head, oddly, we did not see one child named, though all the teachers were. This must have been a rule.

7 – In the Punishment Book, started in 1939, there is not one entry! Maybe the teachers were too busy to write in the children’s names.

8 - In a morning, at home, we sometimes put the cream from the top of the milk into a small jar, then shook it all the way to school. It turned into butter! But I can’t remember what we did with it then!

9 – Did you spot the mistake in the Hull Daily Mail ‘tender’ advert? The address ‘Guildhall, Hull’ was mistakenly typed as ‘Guildhall, Hall’!



And FINALLY

Here is an enhanced aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946.

It not only shows the school, but Wold Road down to the water reservoir, and up as far as Wymersely Road showing the large number of PoW/ Servicemens’ huts.

Parts of Moorhouse, Chester, and Hotham Roads are also visible.

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