

# Education The Response



# Addysg Yr Ymateb

In 1870 the Government created locally-elected school boards. Their job was to provide an education for the third of children who did not go to school, and to improve the existing schools. The different churches realised whoever controlled the board would control the education of the young. However, public opinion in Wrexham, led by the local newspapers, ensured no one church dominated the school board.

There were strong opinions on what children should learn at school. Many people felt working class girls should only be taught the skills to be good wives or servants, while boys should be trained for practical work.

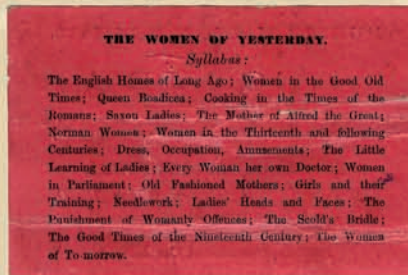
*"The study of dead languages, Bible history and theological subjects get more than a fair share of attention to the practical exclusion of the essentials of a practical training"*

The Wrexhamite, 1888.

The school board gradually set up board schools in every community providing an elementary (primary) education separately to boys and girls. By 1901 school was free and compulsory up to the age of 13, though sometimes children missed school as they had to work.

*"Attendance has suffered during the current week on account of many children having to help their parents in the potato fields."*

George Bristow, Master's Log Book, Bersham Board School, October 16th, 1896.



Adult education and night school were popular in Victorian times. Roedd addysg oedolion a dosbarthiadau nos yn boblogaidd yn y cyfnod Fictoriaidd.

Yn 1870, sefydlodd y Llywodraeth fyrddau ysgolion oedd yn cael eu hethol yn lleol. Eu swyddogaeth oedd darparu addysg i'r traean o blant nad oedd nhw'n mynychu'r ysgol, ynghyd â gwella'r ysgolion oedd yn bodoli eisoes. Sylweddolodd y gwahanol eglwysi y byddai pwyl bynnag oedd yn rheoli'r byrddau ysgol hefyd yn rheoli addysg yr ifanc. Fodd bynnag, sicrhaodd y farn gyhoeddus, a gâi ei harwain gan bapurau lleol, nad oedd un eglwys yn tra-arglwyddiaethu ar y bwrdd ysgolion.

Roedd safbwyntiau cryfion ynghylch yr hyn y dylai plant ei ddysgu yn yr ysgol. Teimlai llawer mai dim ond y medrau oedd yn eu paratoi i fod yn weision neu forynion oedd yn briodol i enethod, tra oedd angen rhoi pwyslais ar waith ymarferol yn yr addysg i fechgyn.

*"The study of dead languages, Bible history and theological subjects get more than a fair share of attention to the practical exclusion of the essentials of a practical training"*

The Wrexhamite, 1888.

Yn raddol, sefydlwyd Ysgol Bwrdd ym mhob cymuned gan y Bwrdd Ysgolion i ddiben darparu addysg elfennol (cynradd), ar wahân, i fechgyn a genethod. Erbyn 1901 roedd addysg yn rhad ac yn orfodol hyd at 13 oed, er y byddai plant yn colli'r ysgol weithiau oherwydd eu bod yn gorfod gweithio.

*"Attendance has suffered during the current week on account of many children having to help their parents in the potato fields."*

George Bristow, Log yr Ysgolfeistr, Bwrdd Ysgol Y Bers, Hydref 16, 1896



Charles Dodd and pupils at the British School, Brook Street, Wrexham. Note the boys' writing slates.

Charles Dodd a disgyblion yr Ysgol Brydeinig, Brook Street, Wrexham. Sylwch ar fechni ysgrifennu'r bechgyn.

*"Our girls ought to be taught baking and boiling, sweeping and sewing... trained to become useful servants and wives in place of ornamental nonentities."*

Letter to the Wrexhamite, a local journal, 1888. Llythyr i'r Wrexhamite, un o'r papurau lleol, 1888.

*"This school is in excellent order. The children recite with spirit and intelligence and the handwriting is particularly good throughout the school."*

Report on Bersham Board School, November 1896. Adroddiad ar Fwrdd Ysgol Y Bers, Tachwedd 1896.



*"I am the teacher in the girls' school on Brook Street. It is needlework this morning, but many of the girls will be absent as the circus is in town."*

*"Rydio i'n athrawes yn ysgol y merched yn Brook Street. Dosbarth gweio sydd yma heddiw'r bore, ond bydd llawer o'r genethod yn absennol gan fod y sircws yn y dref."*

