

# COUNTY OF DENBIGH.

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WALTER D. WILES  
COUNTY ARCHITECT.

42A, HIGH STREET,

WREXHAM,

7th January, 1914

## Wrexham County School. PROPOSED NEW GIRLS' SCHOOL.

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*To the Chairman and Governors.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with your instructions, I have prepared three draft Schemes for new Girls' School, proposed to be erected on the recently acquired site in Chester Road, adjoining the Playfield. Each of these Schemes have been arranged that they may be built in three or four sections. The Schemes give practically the same accommodation, the difference being in the way the buildings are arranged on the site.

I have had the site levelled, and taking a Bench Mark on top of a manhole cover, at junction of Chester Road, and the New Road leading to the Playfield, I find the site gradually rises towards the Playfield about four feet.

I propose erecting the building at a floor level of five feet above the junction of the above roads, with two or three steps at the Entrances, this would give a gradient from Chester Road to the School Entrances along the approaches of about 1 in 35, and be sufficient to elevate the building from the roadway, so as to give it an imposing appearance. In fixing the floor at this, the whole of the ground floor would be level, and would stand clear of the ground, without going to any great expense in excavating and carting away surplus material. Levels in explanation of this will be found figured on the Ground Plan (Scheme C) accompanying this report.

Schemes B. and C. are placed crossways on the site, the better plan of these two Schemes in my opinion accompanies this report, viz., Scheme C. the principle difference being, in Scheme C. I have placed the Assembly Hall at the rear, whilst Scheme B. has the Assembly Hall placed to the front, the former would give the better Facade, and would probably cost a little less.

Scheme A. of similar accommodation has the main Facade parallel to Chester Road, but as the acquired site is a corner plot, advantage should be taken in placing the building crossways, as shewn in Schemes B. and C.

I shall be prepared to produce Schemes A. and B. for your consideration, and will confine myself in this report to the cost of Scheme C., this is arranged for erection in four sections, if desired, with an advantage on the ground floor in having a Connecting Corridor throughout the whole block, the Scheme gives a total accommodation for class teaching of 379.

Section 1, coloured "Pink," I propose should be erected first, and would be that portion of the building to the North, containing on the ground floor: Entrance, Cloakroom, Lavatories, two Classrooms (giving accommodation for 30 each), together with Cookery and Laundry Room, Kitchen, Dining Room, Conveniences, and a detached Housewifery Department. On the upper floor: Geography and Art Rooms, Common Room or Library, and two Music Rooms, together with necessary Stores, etc.

Section 2, coloured "Brown," contains on the ground floor: two Classrooms (giving accommodation for 24 each), with an Assembly Hall 60-ft. by 35-ft., and Headmistress' Room. On the upper floor over the two Classrooms and Headmistress' Room would be the Science Department (embodying Botany), and Lecture Rooms.

Section 3, coloured "Yellow," contains on the ground floor: Entrance, Cloakroom, and Lavatory accommodation, with three Classrooms (giving accommodation for 84). On the upper floor, three Classrooms (giving accommodation for 79), together with Teachers' Room. Total accommodation ground and first floor, 163.

Section 4, coloured "Green," contains on the ground floor: two Classrooms (giving accommodation for 54). On the upper floor, two Classrooms (giving accommodation for 54), together with Latrine accommodation, Stores, etc. Total accommodation ground and first floor, 108.

Two Classrooms, one in Section 1 and the other in Section 3, on the ground floor, to the South elevation, marked with a red cross on the Ground Plan, can be arranged as open air rooms.

This Scheme could be conveniently reduced without detriment, and it would slightly improve the Facade, viz., omitting the two Classrooms and part of Cloakrooms (accommodation 30 each) to the South front embodied in Sections 1 and 3, marked with a red cross on the Ground Plan, reducing the total accommodation to 319 for class teaching. With this reduced Classroom accommodation, the Scheme may be found quite large enough, as provision is provided for Students attending special classes, in such subjects as Domestic Training, Art, Geography, and the Science Section embracing Botany. The Curriculum could no doubt be arranged that some of these rooms are in constant use, thus increasing the number of Students for which Classroom accommodation is provided. These special rooms give a total accommodation for about 100 Students. The same suggestion applies to the larger Scheme giving class teaching accommodation for 379.

All the Schemes are arranged on the site, that provision is left for the erection of a Caretaker's House and Headmistress' House and Hostel.

With regard to the Gymnasium, I recommend this to take the form of a semi-permanent building, to be erected on the Playfield midway between the present Sports Pavilions, so that it may be used both by Girls and Boys.

#### **Cost.**

I do not think I can do better than make a comparison with the existing Schools. I suggest the New School be built of brick with Cefn stone dressings, not quite a duplicate of the present School, but on the same lines so as to be in harmony.

I find your present School cost £12,150, which included the Building Contract, Drainage, Laying out of Grounds, Furnishing, and Fitting up the Laboratories, Clerk of Works, Quantity Surveyor (£235), and Architect's fee (£500) (which latter fee would not fall upon the cost of the proposed Scheme if the work is placed in my hands). The cost per cubic foot of the present School is arrived at exclusive of this fee, and works out at the rate of 6¾d., basing the new buildings at this rate, plus 15 per cent. advance in the cost of building, the Sections would come out something on the following lines:—

	£	£
SECTION 1.—226,942 cubic feet at 6¾d. ...	6382	
Add 15 per cent. ...	957	
	——	7339
SECTION 2.—146,010 cubic feet at 6¾d. ...	4106	
Add 15 per cent. ...	615	
	——	4721
SECTION 3.—122,878 cubic feet at 6¾d. ...	3455	
Add 15 per cent. ...	518	
	——	3973
SECTION 4.— 64,888 cubic feet at 6¾d. ...	1824	
Add 15 per cent. ...	273	
	——	2097
		————
Estimated cost for a total accommodation of 379 Scholars ... ..		<u>£18,130</u>

Estimated cost of reduced Scheme C. as per report:—

	£	£
SECTION 1.—214,474 cubic feet at 6¾d. ...	6032	
Add 15 per cent. ....	904	
	——	6936
SECTION 2.—146,010 cubic feet at 6¾d. ...	4106	
Add 15 per cent. ...	615	
	——	4721
SECTION 3.—110,410 cubic feet at 6¾d. ...	3105	
Add 15 per cent. ...	465	
	——	3570
SECTION 4.— 64,888 cubic feet at 6¾d. ...	1824	
Add 15 per cent. ...	273	
	——	2097
		————
Estimated cost for a total accommodation of 319 Scholars ... ..		<u>£17,324</u>

The present Schools have a floor area of 18,426 superficial feet.

Scheme C. accommodating 379 would have a floor area of 27,510 superficial feet, whilst the reduced Scheme C. accommodating 319 would have a floor area of 26,118 superficial feet.

A suitable Caretaker's House would cost about £400, and a Gymnasium, which I suggest should be up to date in every respect, built of a semi-permanent character on the same lines as the Pavilions, with the exception, the roof should be slated, would probably cost about £800. For such a class of semi-permanent building a loan can be obtained for 25 years, and one for the School buildings, for 30 years.

Enclosed with this report to each Governor, the following drawings in explanation :—

Ground Plan to 20-ft. scale, Design C.

First Floor Plan, do., do,

Block Plan to scale  $\frac{1}{1,250}$  showing the whole of the County School Estate.

The Schemes prepared are of a preliminary character, to a small scale, and no doubt there will be points requiring adjusting when preparing the working drawings.

Trusting this report, with the accompanying drawings, will assist you in considering the whole of the undertaking in its early stage.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER D WILES,

County Architect.