

COPY

17th March 1941

Oswald Thomas, Esq.,
Secretary to the Education Committee,
Education Offices,
RUTHIN.

Dear Sir,

WREXHAM GIRLS' COUNTY SCHOOL.
Air Raid Precautions.

I have to refer to yours of the 14th instant giving copy of letter from the Headmistress of the above,

On the 11th July last I forwarded a letter and plan to Mr. Emyr Williams, Clerk to the Governors. The Plan illustrated the areas of the premises (etched in red) ear-marked as shelter accommodation in the event of an air raid. The sections selected are the four Cloakrooms (Ground Floor) together with connecting corridor; the roofs or ceilings of which are reinforced concrete. The Cloakrooms which form part of a two storey building have had the concrete ceilings further strengthened by timber propping; the windows to the Cloakrooms have been protected and so also have the entrance door openings.

The areas for shelter accommodation marked on the plan sent to Mr. Emyr Williams include approximately 3,740 sq. ft. and on the Board's calculation of 4 sq. ft. per scholar the areas marked on plan would provide accommodation for 935 scholars. I understand however there are 420 scholars attending the school. Another point is that the seating capacity in the Cloakroom gives accommodation for 480 scholars. The shelter protection provided at the above school is, in my opinion, adequate and is equal ~~and~~ in all respects to a surface air raid shelter.

With regard to the Headmistress' comment in respect of ladders between corridor roofs etc. this is being dealt with by the Clerk to the Governors under the heading of "Fire Watching". All the flat roofs at the above are covered in three layers of bitumastic felt.

I have forwarded a copy of this letter together with a copy of your letter of the 14th instant to Mr. Emyr Williams for his information.

Yours faithfully,
(SGD) G.D. Wiles
County Architect.

GIRLS DEPARTMENT.

Roof Area - 19,525 sq.ft.

I recommend one Fire Guard Team to be on duty each night at the school, with arrangements for one party on call from the Residential Fire Guards.

The present small room used as a registering Post for Residential Fire Guards to be vacated in favour of allowing Residential Fire Guards to register at the Fire Guard Post to be established in the school. For this purpose, I recommend the room on the ground floor known as the Medical Room, which will be ample accommodation for three Fire Guards, and is in proximity to the usual amenities.

I recommend the following equipment at the Post:-

- 1 stirrup pump.
- 2 buckets.
- 1 axe.
- 1 hand torch.
- 1 hose holding appliance.

ACCOMMODATION.

- 1 three tier bunk, or single beds.
- 3 blankets per bed, plus 15% change over.
- 3 steel helmets.
- Bunks to be provided with paliasse, pillow and two pillow slips per bunk.

In the case of the Girls School, the rectangular design gives approximately four long corridors on the ground and first floor. I recommend that a stirrup pump and two buckets of water and two sand mats be placed at the extreme end of each corridor on both floors, and as far as possible, the provision of further buckets of water somewhere near the centre of each of these corridors.

In addition there should be a stirrup pump and two buckets of water near the foot of each stairway, and this would make them available in case of need for the Assembly Hall. The same equipment should be provided also as either side of the Assembly Hall, on or near the raised stage.

QUADRANGLE AND CLOISTERS.

I would recommend the provision of an extending ladder in the quadrangle to give immediate access to the cloister roofs and also the provision of water tank or butt in the quadrangle itself, to act as supplementary water supply.

I would recommend the provision of three further extending ladders, one for reaching the roof from the enclosed grass plot towards the Park Avenue side of the building, and a further two extending ladders to give access from the first roof to the top roofs.

I estimate the height of these roofs to be between 15 and 20 ft. Here again I would especially recommend the provision of suitable distances of portable water containers, buckets etc., at the distances along the corridors are fairly considerable and it may mean that a team would be cut off from the water supply in dealing with an outbreak of fire in one of the rooms leading off the corridors.

ROTAS.

The available staff at the Girls Department would not be sufficient to work a complete Rota, and again I recommend that such rostering would be made on the basis of having at least one member of the school staff on duty each night, with Fire Guards supplemented from the Local Authority's Pool.

The above two schemes could be put into operation immediately the necessary equipment is provided, and such rooms as required, be provided with the necessary blackout.

SIGNED.....*Al Luck*.....

Fire Guard Staff Officer.