

How to read the Admission Register

The register is in two parts: An alphabetical record and a chronological record.

Alphabetical record (Pages 2-14)

If you're looking for a name, the alphabetical record is a good place to start. Here, you will find the names of all children in the register, organised by surname. As children were entered as they arrived, the surnames are not ordered within individual letters.

The children are listed by surname then first name, both in the same box. If you see an 'L' next to the name, it indicates that the child had left the school by the time this register ceased to be used around 1955. Each child is also given an admission number.

This number can be used to locate more information within the second, chronological record.

Chronological record (Pages 15-54)

The chronological record contains much more information, organised by order of admission to the school. The admission number is the first column and can be used to easily locate a child found in the first section.

The columns are as follows after the admission number.

Date of admission or readmission – The date the child started at the school or, if they'd left and returned, the date they'd returned. You will see 'read.' Written before this column in readmitted children and an amendment of the date.

Full name of child – With surname entered first, often includes middle names too.

Date of birth – For some children, this is left blank or partially blank presumably because the exact date wasn't known.

Evidence of age – Often left blank, reflecting either the lack of documentation carried by families. If marked with a letter then C. stands for Birth Certificate, F.B. stands for Family Bible, D. stands for Statutory Declaration and B. stands for Certificate of Baptism.

Address – This is often just a simple description and not a formal address as is common today. For evacuated children, this would be their evacuated address, not their home address.

Name of parent or guardian – Often lists the name of a parent or sometimes a nurse.

The rows continue across two pages so you'll need to count down the rows to ensure you have the same child on the second page.

Exemption from religious instruction – Very rarely filled in. The few examples say R.C. denoting Roman Catholic children whose parents wished to exempt them from Protestant religious teaching and services in the school.

Name of last school – If children had moved from another school, this was recorded here. If blank, assume that children started at Laddingford.

Date of last attendance – The child's last day at the school.

Cause of leaving – The reason why the child stopped attending Laddingford. Moving to secondary school or being exempted from education for work are two very common reasons. Moving to other schools is also common.

Nature of employment – Usually a work address or a school name to which the child had transferred.

Remarks – Usually left blank but occasionally filled in with short codes in pencil. Many 'm's but I'm not sure what this means!