

Desford Council Evening Continuation School.

The Desford Council Evening Continuation School opened on 14 September, 1893 with a total of 16 pupils.¹ It was held in the Board School, and the Board gave free use of the room.² Later that year, the school had 21 pupils (five of whom were over 21) who were taught decorating and domestic economy. By 1894, the number of subjects had increased and now included reading and recitation, writing and composition, arithmetic, agriculture, domestic economy and needlework, with a total of 45 pupils completing 12 hours of instruction.³ In 1898, there were 39 mixed pupils (five of whom were aged over 21). The responsible teacher, J. Cheesewright, was in attendance at the school on average for 29 hours during the session (which consisted of 34 evenings totalling 68 hours). His salary was £13 16s.⁴ By 1890, the number of pupils had dropped to 35, the teacher was now Richard Orton, his salary had increased to £23 12s. 6d. and he attended on average for 30 hours.⁵ By 1900, a total 104 pupils had completed 12 hours of instruction (commercial arithmetic, 41; vocal music, 30; domestic science, 17 and needlework 16).⁶ By 1910 the school was meeting on Friday evenings between 6.30 and 8.30. Richard Orton was the head teacher of the school, with an average of ten pupils attending over three inspections lasting from January to April 1911.⁷

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¹ ROLLR, C/LB/89/5.

² ROLLR, E/M/89/11/4.

³ ROLLR, E/M/89/11/5.

⁴ ROLLR, E/M/89/11/1.

⁵ ROLLR, E/M/89/11/2.

⁶ ROLLR, E/M/89/11/3.

⁷ ROLLR, E/R/89/9.