

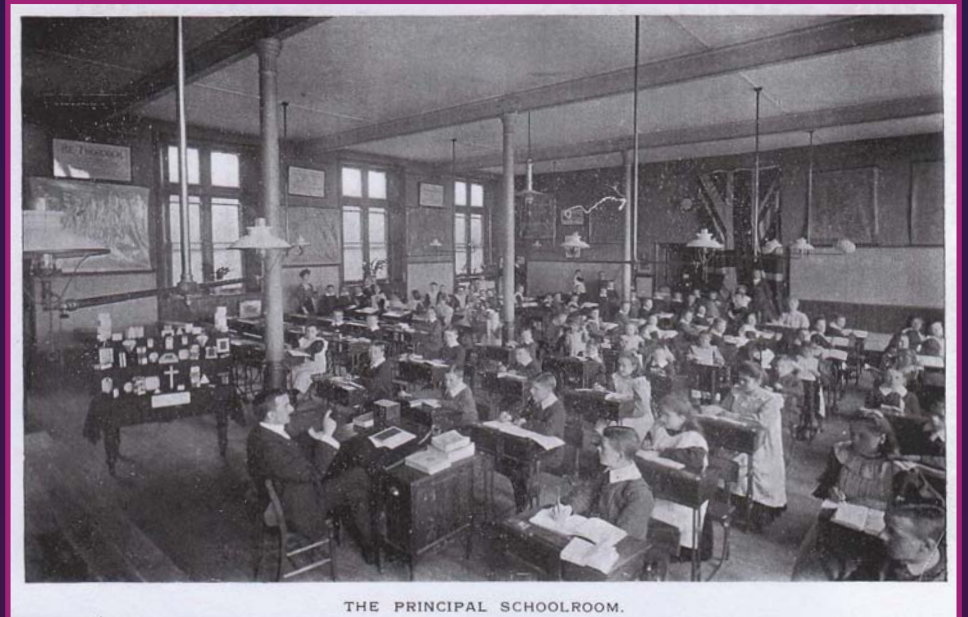
# Imposed Childhoods: Managing destitute, delinquent and deaf children in Glamorgan, 1840-1914.

During the course of the nineteenth century there was extensive debate regarding the management of 'problem' children. This resulted in a shift within the perceptions and policies concerning the institutionalisation of pauper, criminal and disabled children which was beginning to determine that their care and education should focus on a more discrete and specialised regime.

My research will explore the discursive and practical strategies of three institutions in Glamorgan: Cockett Cottage Homes, a Poor Law funded home for destitute children; Glamorganshire Reformatory School which housed and educated young offenders and The Cambrian Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which sought to rehabilitate deaf children.

Although some of these children were orphans, most had one or both parents. Contemporary child-welfare campaigners such as Florence Davenport Hill sought to undermine parental influence of institutionalised children. My research has indicated that views of parental care were both fluid and contradictory and I will examine and compare perceptions of parental participation both nationally and in each institution.

My research will contribute to debates concerning both the construction of childhood in this period and contemporary interpretations of poverty, criminality and disability.



Tuesday, 5/4/04.  
We promise from this day to be  
Good Boys and to do all we are  
told by the Master, to be always  
truthful and honest and never to run  
away again.  
Willie Edmunds  
Thomas Harris.  
David Harris.

[The Cambrian Institution] 'was a work of Christian charity, and appealed to all the principles and feelings of the Christian, as it tended to utilise the faculties and energies of an unfortunate class of persons which would otherwise remain dead, stagnant, barren, and useless'.

**The Cambrian, 16 June 1854.**

'[Workhouse children] 'run the risk of what is called the contamination of the workhouse taint'...they look to the workhouse as their natural home, to which, on the smallest emergency, they will not hesitate to return and thus form a nucleus of hereditary pauperism'

**J T D Llewelyn, Western Mail, 17 April 1874.**

'The majority of those who has been discharged are now employed in the iron works and collieries, and in the army and navy, and are not lost sight of by the Superintendent...On the other hand, we are sometimes grievously disappointed by the return of discharged boys to the criminal practices of their former lives'.

**Report of the Managing Committee of the Glamorganshire Reformatory School, 1871.**

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