

# Kibble: Lasting Legacy

## Kibble: The Beginning

Miss Kibble's Reformatory School was founded in July 1859 by a charitable bequest from Miss Elizabeth Kibble, who came from a wealthy Paisley textile family. In her last will and testament of 1840 she laid down that the money should be used to 'found and endow in Paisley an institution for the purpose of reclaiming youthful offenders against the laws'. The first residents were transferred from Paisley Reformatory.

Kibble's first Admissions Register (1859-1880) records that the most common offences were thefts – usually of shoes, food or clothing; given that there was no state welfare system at this time, as well as the nature of the items stolen, it appears that many of these thefts were committed due to deprivation and genuine need rather than from malicious intent. Indeed, many of the boys recorded in this register were orphans, or victims of parental neglect or abandonment. They were also notably younger than later admissions: as young as eight years old, with the majority between ten and twelve years of age.

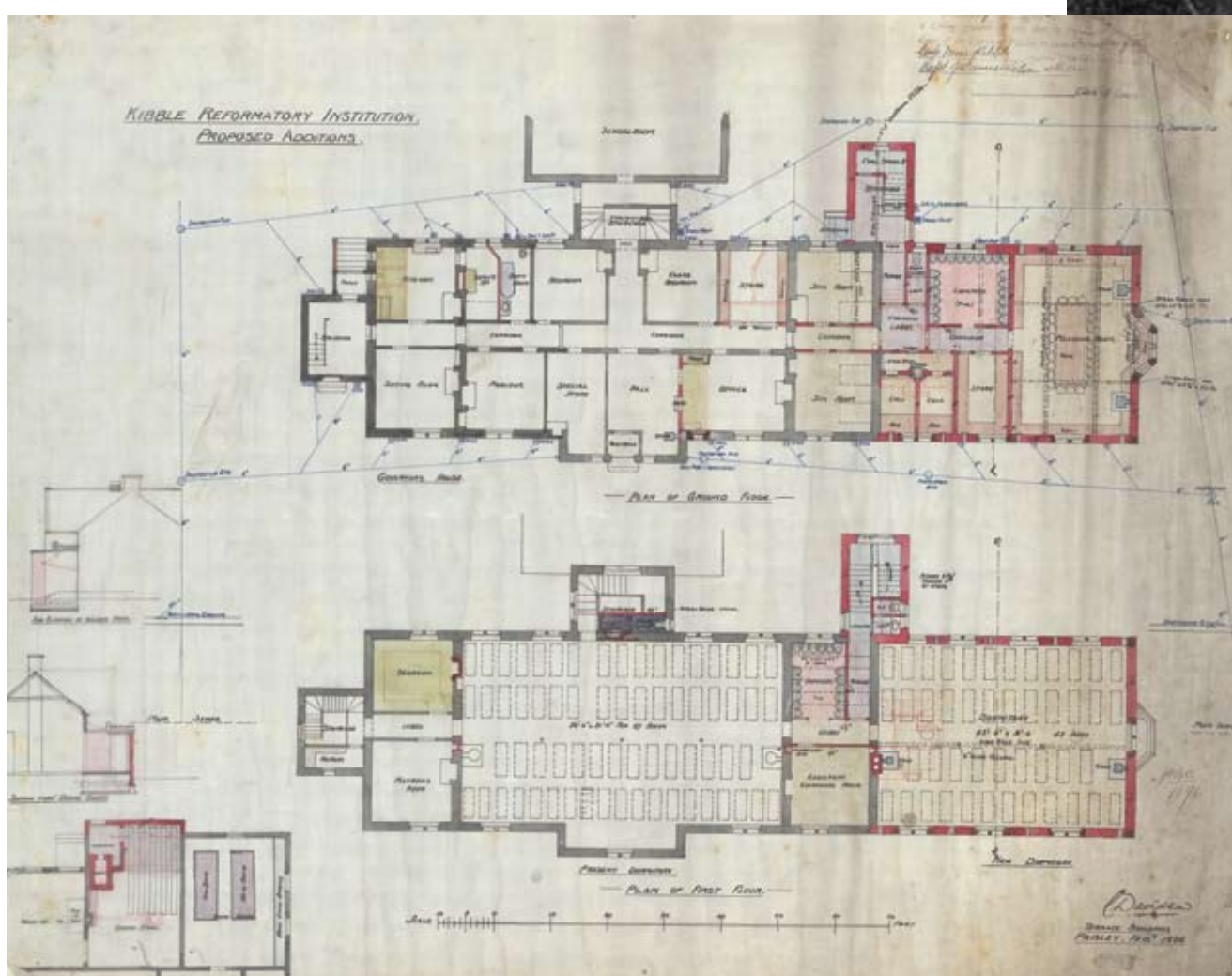
No.	Date of Admission	Age	Place of Birth	Parents	Age of Mother	Age of Father	Profession of Parents	Occupation of Child	Offence	Date and cause of removal to school	Remarks and length of stay
1	March 1st 1859	11	Paisley	Paisley	no	no	Father David & Mother Sarah - a drunkard and his wife brought up by an aunt. Father dead.	Labour	Stolen key and tools	March 1st term of detention expired. Appointed to Mr. Mack's school. Paisley.	16
2	March 22nd 1859	10	Paisley	Paisley	yes	yes	Father Charles & Mother Sarah - a drunkard and his wife has deserted her family.	Labour	Stealing and making up a frock	March 25th term of detention expired. Appointed to Mr. Mack's school. Paisley.	
3	April 1st 1859	11	Paisley	Paisley	no	no	Father Samuel & Mother Sarah - a drunkard and his wife from Paisley. Father dead.	Waver	Stolen work and tools	April 1st term of detention expired. Appointed to Mr. Mack's school. Paisley.	

Scan of pages from first admissions register

During this period, it was standard practice to send boys to an adult prison – usually for fourteen days – before admission to reformatory school, where they were committed for three to five years with early release being very exceptional. The practice of imposing prison sentences on children was abolished in Scotland in 1893, under the terms of the Day Industrial Schools (Scotland) Act, and several years later in England.



Old Kibble School building



1896 Architect's drawing showing original buildings (dormitory, etc) and proposed extensions (Image courtesy of Paisley Central Library Local Studies Dept)