Reading about Schools

What can I read about school architecture?

The only book is

What can I read about the varieties of schools?

The major histories of the Church in the nineteenth century have short but useful sections on schools and education. These help to outline the issues and conflicts that arose in the period about education

In both of Machin’s books check the index for ‘Education’
For the twentieth century, again, check the index of

The standard works on the churches and education in England in the nineteenth century are

The provision, funding and inspection of schools, was an ecclesiastical and political battleground, primarily between the Church of England and the nonconformist churches, throughout the nineteenth and the early part of the twentieth centuries. These books set out the issues.

In addition to the Church of England’s provision of schools through the agency of the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church (hence ‘National Schools’), and, in London, The London Diocesan Board for Education, to provide elementary education (ie in reading, writing and arithmetic, and the Church Catechism, up to the age of 10), there were

The British and Foreign Schools Society, mainly supported by Nonconformists which provided ‘British Schools’
Wesleyan schools
Congregational schools
Roman Catholic schools
Sunday Schools in all denominations
‘Private’ or ‘Dame’ schools (because they were usually run by women)
‘Ragged’ schools mostly provided by evangelical Christian philanthropists or women’s religious communities, for the poorest children.
‘Board Schools’ funded by the London School Board, following the 1870 Education Act
For the National Society and National Schools see


Very little has been written about British and Congregational schools.

For Wesleyan schools see

For Roman Catholic Schools see


For ‘Private’ or ‘Dame schools’ see


For ‘ragged’ schools see


Visit the Ragged School Museum, 46-50 Copperfield Road, London E3 4RR museum@raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk, which is in a former ragged school, and has a reconstructed classroom

For Sunday Schools see


For Board Schools see


What can I read about developing approaches to education?
Relatively little has been written about educational policies and practices. Hurt’s two books provide useful introductory information. See also


What can I read about what was taught in schools and life in schools?
A good example of a history of a London school, giving an impression of life in the school is


What can I read about teachers and their training?
A useful introduction to the training of teachers may be found in


This document is online at:
[http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/building-on-history-project/resource-guide/research/schools-reading.htm](http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/building-on-history-project/resource-guide/research/schools-reading.htm)