



History of Godolphin School, Milford Hill

Charles and Elizabeth Godolphin left money for the foundation of a school for the better education and maintenance of 8 young orphan gentlewomen of Church of England parents who had not inherited more than £400. They were to be bought up at Sarum or some other town in the county of Wiltshire.

The full inscription and details of this bequest is in Westminster Abbey Nave Cloister where you will find the Godolphin Family memorial. The following link will give you more details: [Godolphin Family, Westminster Abbey](#)

This bequest was in 1726 but because the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral refused to act as trustees of the property at Rosemary Lane in the Cathedral Close, the money was invested under the authority of the Chancery. So unfortunately it was many decades before their bequest was set in place. In 1784 eventually Godolphin school was opened, But even then it was not until 1831 the bequest was fully fulfilled. It remained in the Cathedral Close for 54 years occupying the house in Rosemary Lane as well Arundells and Kings House

In 1848 due probably to the cholera outbreak the school moved outside the city to Milford. Here it moved many times occupying many of the large houses in Milford in turn.

Finally in 1891 it moved to where it is now at the top of Milford Hill.

In 1904 another 6 acres were purchased to extend the school and in 1925 swimming baths were added.

It continued to expand and be modernised over the subsequent years

In 1991 the original science block was re-opened as an art block by Diane, Princess of Wales.

In 1996 the Performing Arts Centre was opened by Sir Timothy West

It now stands in 16 acres and has approximately 420 girl pupils.

Old pupils include: Dorothy L Sayers and Jilly Cooper.