



UK CHILD LABOUR & EDUCATION LAWS: A HISTORY



1802 Health and Morals of

Apprentices Act (*not enforced*):

No apprentice in textile factories to work more than 12 hours a day. Night work was banned.

1819 Factory Act limits working day for children in cotton mills to 12 hours. Children under the age of 9 should not be employed, *but magistrates did not enforce this.*

1833 Factory Act limits work for children in textile factories (children aged 9-13 should work no more than 48 hours a week) and includes provision for the education of children working in the textile factories (children under the age

of 13 to attend school for 12 hours a week). ***Inspectors employed to enforce law.***

1842 Mines Act: Women and girls, and boys under the age of 10, were not allowed to work *underground*. Boys under the age of 15 were not allowed to work machinery.

1844 Factory Act: Children under 13 to work no more than 6.5 hours per day. Women and children aged 13-18 to work no more than 12 hours a day.

1844 "Ragged Schools" set up for the poorest children.

1847 Factory Act limits women and children under 18 to 58-hour working week.

1850 Factory Act establishes standard working day.

1860 Mines Act: Boys under 12 not allowed underground unless they could read and write.

1870 Education Act (Forster's Act)-sets up School Boards to provide schooling for 5-11 year olds.

1875 Act passed which required all chimney sweeps to be licensed.



Licences were issued only to sweeps not using climbing boys.

1878 Factory and Workshops Act: Employment of children under 10 banned. Regulations of control safety, ventilation and meals.

1880 Education Act school compulsory for children aged 5-10.

1891 Assisted Education Act funds each child, allowing schools to stop having to charge fees.

1918 School-leaving age raised to **14**.

1944 School-leaving age raised to **15**.

1973 School-leaving age raised to **16**.

2008 Students starting secondary school in September 2008 now have to stay in compulsory education until they are **17**.

Source: Herefordshire Council