

A Return of the different schools in the Parishes of Kilclonfert, Ballycommon, and these Portions of the Parishes of Ballinakill and Geashill, comprehended in Philipstown Union.

Kilclonfert Parish. Extreme length of the Parish $6\frac{3}{8}$ miles. Extreme Breadth of [the Parish] $2\frac{3}{4}$ [miles]. Computed no. of acres, 2963.

1. Kilclonfert School

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	Kilclonfert School, Kill, Kill.
2	State the name of the Master or Mistress – at what time the school was first opened – and on what days, and what periods of the year, the school is held	Joseph Cody. This school first opened in January 1824 and is a daily school.
3	State the religion of the Master or Mistress – and by whom (if any one) he or she was appointed to the school, and when	A Roman Catholic appointed by the Catholic Clergy of the Parish.
4	State the age, character, and qualifications of the Master or Mistress, and where he or she was educated, and whether trained in Kildare Place, or elsewhere, and where	An unmarried man about 45 years of age; of good character; educated in Ballymahon in the County of Longford; not trained in Kildare Place nor elsewhere; teaches reading, writing and arithmetic.
5	State the number of pupils in attendance, on an average of 3 months preceding this return: Male Female Protestants – of the Established Church; Presbyterians; Of other denominations Roman Catholics	Males – 67 Females – 42 Protestants - Of the Established Church - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 109
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	32
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	School not opened in 1823.
8	State the proportion of children in the school who can read – whether 2 in 20, 3 in 20, 4 in 20, or in what other proportion. State also the average time required in this school to teach a child to read	36/109 read; put to read the Master says in 6 months.
9	State the total annual income of the Master or Mistress – distinguishing salaries or annual gratuities, if any, and from what sources they proceed – the income arising from payments by the scholars – and the rates of payment required from them	Annual income about £30; paid by the children's parents at 20d., 2s. 6d. or 3s. 3d. per quarter each.
10	Describe the school-house – the nature of its accommodations – the materials of its construction – and the probable cost of	The schooll [sic] a thatched house built of lime and stone, one story [sic] high, 36 feet by 14 in the clear divided almost equally

	constructing one of similar size and materials at present – State the length and breadth of the school-room – State also at whose expense, and out of what funds, the school-house was constructed	into two apartments; ground floor well lighted; the school room 17½ feet by 14; poorly provided in point of desks, tables or forms; the ground with half an acre of garden given <u>free</u> by B.D. Smith Esq., the immediate landlord, built at the expence [sic] of P.J. Rigney with the exception of £4 subscribed by Messrs. Smith & Scully, two Catholic Gentlemen of the Neighbourhood, cost of building exclusive of the cost of stone, the drawing thereof & the drawing of other Materials £25.
11	State the associations, societies, charitable foundations, or institutions, confraternities, convents, or persons in any, and what religious orders, (if any) with which each school is in connexion – and at what time, and under what circumstances such connexion was formed – state also whether the rules prescribed by such associations &c. have been faithfully adhered to, or deviated from in any and what respects, and by whom, and when	None.
12	State the names, ranks and situations in life, of local or other patrons, or superintendents, if any, of each school, - and the nature, extent, and occasions of their superintendence – and state in particular, the nature and extent of superintendence exercised over the school by the Protestant minister and curate, or by the Roman Catholic priest or coadjutor, or by any dissenting minister, and whether they have regular days for visiting the schools, and what days	None. T
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	None.
14	Enumerate every book and printed paper, of every description, which is or has been read, taught, or in any way used, either for amusement or instruction, within the school, at the time of making this return, or within 6 months previous to it, so far as you can learn – and state – from what sources, and in what manner, and at whose expense they have been supplied. In case the Scriptures are used, state whether it is the Bible at large, or the New Testament alone – whether the translation used to be that of the Established Church, or the Douay Version – how many copies of each are used in the school at the	The books are those furnished by the Kildare Street Society viz., 1 st , 2 nd , & 3 rd Class of Spelling Books, small histories, all unexceptionable, tracts on arithmetic, New Testament Douay Version, 2 copies and General Catechism, which is provided by the [Children of the Parents].

	period of making the return – what was the greatest number of each at any period within the 6 months next preceding, (as far as you can learn) - and state any causes which may have led to the increased or diminished use of them within the school	
15	State whether any steps have been taken in the school, by whom, at what time, and in what manner to induce Roman Catholics to become Protestants, or Protestants to become Roman Catholics - state fully your observations as to any increase, diminution, or secession of pupils, which has taken place, either within the present year, or at any period, during the last few years – the causes to which such are to be attributed – the mode in which they have been effected – your opinion as to the probability of their being permanent – the sentiments and dispositions of the people as to the attendance of their children at the school – the extent and degree to which any endeavours to induce such increase or diminution have been successful or otherwise – and any further general observations which you may deem it expedient to offer.	There are no efforts towards proselytism in any of these schools, namely, the schools of Kilclonfert, Ballycommon, Ballinakill Parishes, or in Clonmore School, the only one in the Part of the Parish of Geashill pertaining to the Philipstown Union. The parish denominated of Philipstown is nearly an Isocetes Triangle with some Insets and Offsets on the South Border especially. The longest side is about 10½ miles and each of the other two about 6½ - with considerable offsets likewise on the side which is Boundary of this County & the County of Westmeath. The Superficial Contents of the whole about 21½ square miles or 13760 acres.

2. Ballycommon Parish School

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	Ballycommon Parish School, Clubbin, Clubbin.
2	State the name of the Master or Mistress – at what time the school was first opened – and on what days, and what periods of the year, the school is held	Matthias Flanagan. This school first opened about 3 years ago and is a daily school.
3	State the religion of the Master or Mistress – and by whom (if any one) he or she was appointed to the school, and when	A Roman Catholic, not specially appointed.
4	State the age, character, and qualifications of the Master or Mistress, and where he or she was educated, and whether trained in Kildare Place, or elsewhere, and where	An unmarried man about 35 years of age; of tolerable character, educated partly in Tullamore, partly in America; not trained in Kildare Place nor elsewhere; teaches reading, writing & arithmetic.
5	State the number of pupils in attendance, on an average of 3 months preceding this return: Male Female Protestants – of the Established Church; Presbyterians; Of other denominations Roman Catholics	Males – 37 Females – 17 Protestants - Of the Established Church - 4 - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics – 50

6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	54
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	45
8	State the proportion of children in the school who can read – whether 2 in 20, 3 in 20, 4 in 20, or in what other proportion. State also the average time required in this school to teach a child to read	19/54 read; put to read in about 12 months.
9	State the total annual income of the Master or Mistress – distinguishing salaries or annual gratuities, if any, and from what sources they proceed – the income arising from payments by the scholars – and the rates of payment required from them	Annual income between £15 and £20; paid by the children's parents at the following rates: 2s. 2d., 2s. 3d., & 5s. 5d. each per quarter.
10	Describe the school-house – the nature of its accommodations – the materials of its construction – and the probable cost of constructing one of similar size and materials at present – State the length and breadth of the school-room – State also at whose expense, and out of what funds, the school-house was constructed	The School House a Thatched Cabbin 20 feet by 12 in the Clear; mud wall; totally unfinished and unfurnished in point of Desks, Tables or Forms; built by the Parishioners at about £8 expence [sic].
11	State the associations, societies, charitable foundations, or institutions, confraternities, convents, or persons in any, and what religious orders, (if any) with which each school is in connexion – and at what time, and under what circumstances such connexion was formed – state also whether the rules prescribed by such associations &c. have been faithfully adhered to, or deviated from in any and what respects, and by whom, and when	None.
12	State the names, ranks and situations in life, of local or other patrons, or superintendents, if any, of each school, - and the nature, extent, and occasions of their superintendence – and state in particular, the nature and extent of superintendence exercised over the school by the Protestant minister and curate, or by the Roman Catholic priest or coadjutor, or by any dissenting minister, and whether they have regular days for visiting the schools, and what days	None.
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	None.
14	Enumerate every book and printed paper, of every description, which is or has been read, taught, or in any way used, either for	Ballycommon Parish Extreme length $4\frac{1}{8}$ miles Extreme breadth $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles

	amusement or instruction, within the school, at the time of making this return, or within 6 months previous to it, so far as you can learn – and state – from what sources, and in what manner, and at whose expense they have been supplied. In case the Scriptures are used, state whether it is the Bible at large, or the New Testament alone – whether the translation used to be that of the Established Church, or the Douay Version – how many copies of each are used in the school at the period of making the return – what was the greatest number of each at any period within the 6 months next preceding, (as far as you can learn) - and state any causes which may have led to the increased or diminished use of them within the school	Computed no. of acres 2621 1st, 2nd & 3rd Class of Spelling Books, New Testament, Esop's [sic] Fables, Cook's Voyages, Trades & Commerce Geography, Sincere Christian, Miscellancies.
15	State whether any steps have been taken in the school, by whom, at what time, and in what manner to induce Roman Catholics to become Protestants, or Protestants to become Roman Catholics - state fully your observations as to any increase, diminution, or secession of pupils, which has taken place, either within the present year, or at any period, during the last few years – the causes to which such are to be attributed – the mode in which they have been effected – your opinion as to the probability of their being permanent – the sentiments and dispositions of the people as to the attendance of their children at the school – the extent and degree to which any endeavours to induce such increase or diminution have been successful or otherwise – and any further general observations which you may deem it expedient to offer.	

3. Ballinakill Parish School

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	Ballinakill Parish School, Ballycon, Ballymurrin.
2	State the name of the Master or Mistress – at what time the school was first opened – and on what days, and what periods of the year, the school is held	Morgan Reynolds. This school is of an old standing & is a daily school.
3	State the religion of the Master or Mistress – and by whom (if any one) he or she was appointed to the school, and when	A Roman Catholic, not specially appointed.

4	State the age, character, and qualifications of the Master or Mistress, and where he or she was educated, and whether trained in Kildare Place, or elsewhere, and where	An unmarried man about 40 years of age; of a fair character; received his education from his father who taught school in this neighbourhood many years; is teaching about 10 years; reading, writing, arithmetic & the mathematics; not trained in Kildare Place nor elsewhere.
5	State the number of pupils in attendance, on an average of 3 months preceding this return: Male Female Protestants – of the Established Church; Presbyterians; Of other denominations Roman Catholics	Males – 25 Females – 10 Protestants - Of the Established Church - 8 - Presbyterians – - Of other denominations - Roman Catholics - 27
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	20
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	45
8	State the proportion of children in the school who can read – whether 2 in 20, 3 in 20, 4 in 20, or in what other proportion. State also the average time required in this school to teach a child to read	25/35 read; put to read in about 12 months.
9	State the total annual income of the Master or Mistress – distinguishing salaries or annual gratuities, if any, and from what sources they proceed – the income arising from payments by the scholars – and the rates of payment required from them	Annual income about £20; paid by the children's parents at the rate of about 3s. 10d. per Quarter each.
10	Describe the school-house – the nature of its accommodations – the materials of its construction – and the probable cost of constructing one of similar size and materials at present – State the length and breadth of the school-room – State also at whose expense, and out of what funds, the school-house was constructed	The School House a Thatched Cabin built of Lime and Stone consisting of only one apartment, 16 feet by 12; built by the present Master's Father at his own expence [sic]; might cost about £6 to erect such at the present period. The Schoolhouse is but indifferently lighted & poorly accommodated with Desks, Tables or Forums [sic].
11	State the associations, societies, charitable foundations, or institutions, confraternities, convents, or persons in any, and what religious orders, (if any) with which each school is in connexion – and at what time, and under what circumstances such connexion was formed – state also whether the rules prescribed by such associations &c. have been faithfully adhered to, or deviated from in any and what respects, and by whom, and when	None.
12	State the names, ranks and situations in life, of local or other patrons, or	None.

	superintendents, if any, of each school, - and the nature, extent, and occasions of their superintendence – and state in particular, the nature and extent of superintendence exercised over the school by the Protestant minister and curate, or by the Roman Catholic priest or coadjutor, or by any dissenting minister, and whether they have regular days for visiting the schools, and what days	
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	None.
14	Enumerate every book and printed paper, of every description, which is or has been read, taught, or in any way used, either for amusement or instruction, within the school, at the time of making this return, or within 6 months previous to it, so far as you can learn – and state – from what sources, and in what manner, and at whose expense they have been supplied. In case the Scriptures are used, state whether it is the Bible at large, or the New Testament alone – whether the translation used to be that of the Established Church, or the Douay Version – how many copies of each are used in the school at the period of making the return – what was the greatest number of each at any period within the 6 months next preceding, (as far as you can learn) - and state any causes which may have led to the increased or diminished use of them within the school	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Class of Spelling Books, Exiles of Siberia, Byron's Narratives, Abridgement of the Old & New Testament, Tracts on Arithmetic, General Catholic Catechism, the New Testament, Douay Version.
15	State whether any steps have been taken in the school, by whom, at what time, and in what manner to induce Roman Catholics to become Protestants, or Protestants to become Roman Catholics - state fully your observations as to any increase, diminution, or secession of pupils, which has taken place, either within the present year, or at any period, during the last few years – the causes to which such are to be attributed – the mode in which they have been effected – your opinion as to the probability of their being permanent – the sentiments and dispositions of the people as to the attendance of their children at the school – the extent and degree to which any endeavours to induce such increase or diminution have been successful or otherwise – and any further general	

	observations which you may deem it expedient to offer.	
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4. Geashill Parish School

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	Geashill Parish School, Clonmore, Clonmore.
2	State the name of the Master or Mistress – at what time the school was first opened – and on what days, and what periods of the year, the school is held	Michael Dunn; opened school about 2 years and is a daily school.
3	State the religion of the Master or Mistress – and by whom (if any one) he or she was appointed to the school, and when	A Roman Catholic; not specially appointed.
4	State the age, character, and qualifications of the Master or Mistress, and where he or she was educated, and whether trained in Kildare Place, or elsewhere, and where	A married man, about 24 years of age; of Fair Character, educated partly in Ballinagar & partly in Kilbegan; not trained in Kildare Place; teaches reading, writing & the Course of Arithmetic.
5	State the number of pupils in attendance, on an average of 3 months preceding this return: Male Female Protestants – of the Established Church; Presbyterians; Of other denominations Roman Catholics	Males – 12 Females – 12 Protestants - Of the Established Church - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 24
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	40
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	62
8	State the proportion of children in the school who can read – whether 2 in 20, 3 in 20, 4 in 20, or in what other proportion. State also the average time required in this school to teach a child to read	8 in 24 read; put to read in about 12 months.
9	State the total annual income of the Master or Mistress – distinguishing salaries or annual gratuities, if any, and from what sources they proceed – the income arising from payments by the scholars – and the rates of payment required from them	Annual income about £12; paid by the Children's Parents; rates as following: beginners 1s. 8d.; writers 2s. 0d.; cypherers [sic] 2s. 6d. per Quarter each.
10	Describe the school-house – the nature of its accommodations – the materials of its construction – and the probable cost of constructing one of similar size and materials at present – State the length and breadth of the school-room – State also at whose expense, and out of what funds, the school-house was constructed	The School House, a mud walled Thatched Cabbin [sic], 26 feet by 12½ and seven feet high built by the Parishioners, and is in quite an unfinished state without Doors or sash windows and quite unprovided with the necessary furniture.

11	State the associations, societies, charitable foundations, or institutions, confraternities, convents, or persons in any, and what religious orders, (if any) with which each school is in connexion – and at what time, and under what Noncircumstances such connexion was formed – state also whether the rules prescribed by such associations &c. have been faithfully adhered to, or deviated from in any and what respects, and by whom, and when	None.
12	State the names, ranks and situations in life, of local or other patrons, or superintendents, if any, of each school, - and the nature, extent, and occasions of their superintendence – and state in particular, the nature and extent of superintendence exercised over the school by the Protestant minister and curate, or by the Roman Catholic priest or coadjutor, or by any dissenting minister, and whether they have regular days for visiting the schools, and what days	None.
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	None.
14	Enumerate every book and printed paper, of every description, which is or has been read, taught, or in any way used, either for amusement or instruction, within the school, at the time of making this return, or within 6 months previous to it, so far as you can learn – and state – from what sources, and in what manner, and at whose expense they have been supplied. In case the Scriptures are used, state whether it is the Bible at large, or the New Testament alone – whether the translation used to be that of the Established Church, or the Douay Version – how many copies of each are used in the school at the period of making the return – what was the greatest number of each at any period within the 6 months next preceding, (as far as you can learn) - and state any causes which may have led to the increased or diminished use of them within the school	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Class of Spelling Books, Esop's [sic] Fables, Robinson Crusoe, Tracts on Arithmetic, General Catholic Catechism, New Testament Protestant Translation, one copy.
15	State whether any steps have been taken in the school, by whom, at what time, and in what manner to induce Roman Catholics to become Protestants, or Protestants to become Roman Catholics - state fully your observations as to any	Extreme length of the Parish of Geashill 15 ³ / ₈ miles; extreme breadth of [the Parish of Geashill] 5 ³ / ₄ [miles]; computed no. of acres in the Parish we cannot conveniently ascertain.

	increase, diminution, or secession of pupils, which has taken place, either within the present year, or at any period, during the last few years – the causes to which such are to be attributed – the mode in which they have been effected – your opinion as to the probability of their being permanent – the sentiments and dispositions of the people as to the attendance of their children at the school – the extent and degree to which any endeavours to induce such increase or diminution have been successful or otherwise – and any further general observations which you may deem it expedient to offer.	There is a dense Population in this Part of Geashill Parish which is united to Philipstown and the People are (as we believe they are in every part of Ireland) becomingly desirous to have their Children instructed in Letters. There were Schools almost continually in the district, but for want of suitable Houses they were shifting from place to place. There were two Houses built for the purpose some few years ago in this part of Earl Digby's Estate. One of them was soon after consumed (situate in a place called Cole Hill), as it is generally believed, by <u>accidental fire</u>; and the other, not squaring with or answering the expectations of the people after a short experiment, was deserted; Parents, however, ambitious of their instructions, though in straitened circumstances withholding their children through conscientious motives.
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A return of Baptisms and of Marriages for four years in Philipstown Parish

The year	Baptisms	Marriages
1820	140	33
1821	132	33
1822	160	31
1823	152	30

A registry of Deaths not kept