

	Transcription of School Return, 1824 Kilcock
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Kilcock Parish

Extreme breadth, 2 miles. Extreme length, 3 miles. Computed number of acres 2265.

1. Kilcock

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	In the immediate vicinity of the Town of Kilcock.
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	Edward and Ann Carroll; 1806; Every day except Sundays & Holidays; the entire year except a short vacation at Christmas & Easter.
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	The Roman Catholic Religion; the Master app[ointe]d by the Parish Priest in which appointment a certain number of the subscribed concurred; The Mistress appointed solely by the Parish Priest; The app[ointment]t of the Master took place in May 1823; of the mistress in the Novem[be]r follow[ing].
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	The Master is 20 y[ea]rs of age & upwards; of excellent character; teaches reading, writing & arithmetic; was educated at M[oun]t Rath in the Queen's County and trained at the training school, Kildare Place. The Mistress is about 22 years of age; of good moral character; teaches reading, writing & arithmetic, and also plain work; was educated at Ballynakill and Stradbally in the Queen's County.
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 – 49 Females – 52 Protestants - Of the Established Church - 10 - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 91
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	64 males, 51 females.
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	75 males, 47 females.
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	17 in 20. The children who are in their attendance regular generally read in about 3 months.
9	State the total annual income of the Master or Mistress – distinguishing	The salary of the master & mistress was originally fixed at £40 per annum. In

	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	consequence of the depression of the time it will not exceed £30 in future. A comfortable dwelling house & 2 acres of land rent free ? included. A gratuity of £12 10s. was given at Christmas by the Kildare Street Association. The scholars all supposed to pay one penny a wee, but in consequence of their extreme poverty, many of them cannot and not wishing it may of them do not pay it. This regulation is nearly a dead letter as the receipts of the last year amounted only to £3.
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 schoolhouse consists of two rooms 38 by 16 feet each; the walls built of stone & lime mortar; the roof of foreign deal and slated; cost about £400 or upwards; from the great increase in the value of money of late years to build such a house at present might cost about 300. The money was raised by subscription.
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	From 1806 to 1823, this school was not in connexion [sic] with any society whatever. The zeal of the Parish Priests during that interval having procured from the public funds necessary for its support. At the last mentioed period, the depression which there so generally prevailed among the trading and agricultural classes of this neighbourhood obliged the present parish priest to apply to the “Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland” for a grant of money to enable him to repair the school & furnish it on the Lancasterian plan which application he solemnly declares, he could not have made, could he procure from the usual sources a sum sufficient to repair and furnish the school. The regulations of the Society have not been evaded as he knows or believes.
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	The school is governed by a Committee of the following Gentleman: John Aylmer, Esqr. A. Gledstones, Esqr. Revd. F. Haly, P.P. John Colgan, Esqr. Peter Read, Esqr. Peter Kelly, Esqr. Mr. M. Reynolds, [] Mr. L. Colgan, farmer The nature of their superintendence has not been defined; the school open at all hours for inspection - no fixed days; the

		superintendence left almost exclusively to the Parish Priest.
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	The Committee formed on the [] day of 1824.
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	Children's Primer; Dublin Spelling Book; Do. Reading Book; Douay Testament; extracts from New Testament; Natural History; History of Voyages, spelling tablets; Reading do.; arithmetical do. With the exception of the children's primer, have been supplied by the "Education Society." The copies of the Douay Testament should be also excepted as they were purchased by the Parish Priest. The Douay version is the only one in use, of which there are 10 copies. These have not been more or less in the school since their first introduction into it.
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.	I have not known of any attempts being made to induce the children attending the school to change their religion. There does not appear to be any permanent increase or diminution in the attendance of the children within the last year. Many of the children are kept at home from school during the hurry of the Spring and Harvest months. The want of food and clothing operates very powerfully in preventing others from a regular attendance at school. The parents are almost universally anxious for the education of their children, but their views are too often frustrated by the influence of the causes just mentioned. To induce them to attend the school, I have no means untried; and I do believe the full attendance of pupils is, in a great measure, owing to my exertions. As long as the school has my support, the attendance of children will be regular and permanent; deprive it of that stay, and my belief is that it will in a very short time cease to exist. As I disapprove of that part of any system of education which puts the Sacred Scriptures in the hands of children, and believing, as I most steadfastly do, that it

		has impeded the progress of education in Ireland, I beg leave most respectfully to solicit the attention of the “Commissioners of Education Inquiry” to the following observations: To dispense with the reading of the Sacred Scriptures in the school, and to permit treatises which would convey to the minds of the children a knowledge of the morality of the Gospel to supply their place; to have the right of appointing duly qualified masters vested in the Roman Catholic clergy and gentry; to allow small salaries to be paid to the Masters so appointed out of the fund to be appropriated by the bounty of Parliament for the Education of the Poor (the gratuities given to the Masters by the Kildare Street Society being only considered as checks on them to enforce the reading of the Scriptures in their schools); to give Catholic Prelates and Gentlemen a share in the management of the Parliamentary grant. The adoption of these or like measures, would, I verily believe, given an immediate effect to the wishes of Parliament. And had they been acted upon at an earlier period, it is my firm belief to the remotest corner of the Kingdom, and the time of His Majesty’s Commissioners would not be consumed in endeavouring to ascertain the state of education, and in inquiring into the causes which have arrested its progress in Ireland.
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2. Kilcock

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	School in the town of Kilcock.
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	The Rev[eren]d John Fitzpatrick; in 1822; every day except Sundays and holy days; during the entire year except a short vacation at Christmas & Easter.
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	Roman Catholic.
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	About 45 y[ea]rs of age; of good moral character; teaches reading, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, French & English; educated at Stradbally in the Queen’s County; & at the R[oyal] College at Maynooth.

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 Protestants - Of the Established Church - 1 - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 24
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	25
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	25
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	The children read before they come to this school.
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	With a few exceptions, the children pay one Guinea each 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 room is 24 by 15 feet; the house built of stone and lime mortar; and slated; cost about £60. Alas, same w[oul]d not build it at present; the house is private property.
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	
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	
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	
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	Latin & Greek Grammars; Universal Spelling Books; Scott's Lessons; Cornelius Nepos; Cordery; Latin Dictionary; Plato; Phedras; Esop's [sic] Fables in French; Dowling's Book-Keeping; Telemachus; Ovid's Metamorphosis; Caesar's Commentaries; Eutropius; Salast [Sallust]; copper plate pieces; R[oman] Catholic catechisms and Gough's Arithmetic.
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. Kilcock

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	School in the town of Kilcock.
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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	Robt. Boney; in 1819; one every day, Sundays and holy days excepted; the entire year except a short vacation at Christmas & Easter.
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	Protestant.
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	About 24 y[ea]rs of age; of good character; teaches, reading, writing, arithmetic, English Grammar & Geography; was educated at Kilcock & Abbeylax.
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 – 47 Females – 41 Protestants - Of the Established Church - 21 - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 66
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 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	The total number is 88, of which one half read; some learn to read in 3 and others in 9 m[on]ths.
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	All the children pay [for] their education., some 5s. 5d., some 4s. 4d. and others 3s. 3d. per quarter; the entire of the [] amounts to ab[ou]t £30 p[er] annum.
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 room is 16 by 12 feet; built of stone & lime mortar; slated; cost about 40 pounds; a less sum w[oul]d not now build it; is private property.
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	Up to this time, this school has not been in connexion [sic] with any society. It is in contemplation to place it under the protection of the Kildare St. Association. In that case, <u>the Roman Catholic children shall be withdrawn from the school.</u>

	from in any and what respects, and by whom, and when	
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	
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	
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	Primers; Dublin & Universal Spelling Books; Murry's Grammar; Shearman's Geography; Scot's Lessons; Cath[olic] Catechisms; 2 or 3 copies of the Prot[estant] Testament; Gough's Arithmetic.
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. Kilcock

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	In the Town of Kilcock.
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	[Letitia] Goodwin; in 1817; on every day but Sundays and holy days; the entire year except a short vacation at Christmas & Easter.
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	Protestant.
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	About 27 y[ea]rs of age; of good character; teaches reading, writing & arithmetic, music & French; educated at Miss Gifford's School, Dublin.
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 Females – 10 Protestants - Of the Established Church - 3 - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 7
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	10
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	10
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	About half the children read. They generally learn to read in ab[ou]t a year.
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	The scholars pay a Guinea entrance, and a Guinea a quarter. The am[oun]t of the income may be stated at about €34.2.6 p[er] annum.
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	The school room, 14 feet by 9; music room 16 by 12 feet; stone foundation with clay walls plastered walls & rough casted outside thatched roof; cost about £35; no less a sum w[oul]d build it at present; the house is private property.

	whose expense, and out of what funds, the school-house was constructed	
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	
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	
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	
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	Primers; Universal Spelling Books; Scot's Lessons; Goldsmith's England; Turner's Arts & Sciences; Shearman's & Goldsmith's Geography; Entick's Dictionary; Porney's French Spelling Book; Prounil's Idiom; fable-book; French primer; Cath[olic] Catechisms; Protestant do.
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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5. Kilcock

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	In the Town of Kilcock.
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	Mary Foley; in 1818; on every day, Sundays & Holidays excepted; no vacation.
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	Roman Catholic.
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	About 40 y[ea]rs of age; of good character; teaches spelling, reading & plain work; educated at Kilcock.
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 – 13 Females – 13 Protestants - Of the Established Church - 1 - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 12
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	13
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	13
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	4 children in this school read; they do not read in less than 2 y[ea]rs in consequence of bad attendance on the part of the children.

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	The pupils pay some; some 3s. 4d. & others 2s. 4d. per quarter. The entire amount paid may be £6 p[er] annum.
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 is 18 feet by 12; clay wall; thatched; cost about £8; would cost a like sum to build it now; is private property.
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	
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	
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	
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	Primers; Reading Made Easy; Universal Spelling Book; Catholic Catechisms.

	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	
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.	

6. Kilcock

In the Parish Chapel of Kilcock, where on every Sunday and Holy day, from 80 to 130 children are instructed in the Christian Doctrine.

Sworn &c. &c. before John Aylmer, Esqr.

Francis Haly, P.P.

Kilcock & Cloncurry

Cloncurry Parish

Extreme length of the Parish [].

Extreme breadth of the do. [].

Computed number of acres, 4823.

1. Newtown

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	Newtown, in the parish of Newtown.
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 & Cath. Dunne; in 1796; on every day of the week, Sundays and Holidays when they occur excepted; the entire year with the exception of a short vacation at Christmas & Easter.
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	Roman Catholic; by the Parish Priest and some of the subscribers; the present Master and Mistress were appointed in July 1823.
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	The Master is about 27 & the Mistress is about 23 years of age; of excellent characters; the Master teaches reading, writing & arithmetic; the wife in addition to these teaches the children plain work; they were both educated at Hortland in this County; the Master was trained at Kildare Place.
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 – 52 Females – 40 Protestants - Of the Established Church - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 92
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	104
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	104
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	16 in 20; ab[ou]t 3 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	The salary of the Master is £30 a year with a good dwelling house and acre of land rent free; a gratuity of £12 10s. was given at Christmas by the Society for the Education of the Poor of Ireland, not included; the salary is paid by subscription; the children are supposed to pay a penny a week, but the am[oun]t at the end of last year did not exceed £3 10s.
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	The school-house consists of two rooms of 38 feet by 16 each; built of stone and lime mortar; roof of foreign deal & slates; cost about £200; as good a house might now be constructed for about £18; the money

	whose expense, and out of what funds, the school-house was constructed	for building it was raised by public subscription.
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	From 1796 to 1823, this school was not in connexion [sic] with any society whatever; the zeal of the Parish Priest during that interval procured from a liberal public the funds necessary for its support; in the commencement of the summer of 1823, finding that the state of impoverishment which was brought about by a series of bad years disabled many of those who had subscribed liberally to the support of this school from continuing their usual donations, many of them, besides, having quit the neighbourhood altogether, I was obliged to yield to the necessities with which I was beset, and to apply for a grant to the Kildare Street Society to enable me to repair the school and to furnish it on the Lancasterian plan, which application, I most solemnly declare, I would not have made could I procure from the usual sources a fund necessary for the repairing and furnishing the school. Whilst I object to the obnoxious regulations in the plan of the Kildare Street Society which places the Sacred Scriptures in the hands of children, I consider it due to the gentlemen who compose the Committee to acknowledge my obligations to them for the readiness with which they have made me liberal grants in aid of the schools under my care. The regulations of the Society have not been deviated from, as I know or believe.
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	The Parish Priest the only person who manages the affairs of the school; it is always open for inspection; & a book where any visitor can make their observations.
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	
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	Dublin Reading Book; Do. Spelling Book; Reading & Arithmetical tables; Gough's Arithmetic; copper plate pieces; Natural History; History of Voyages; Dialougues [sic]; all supplied by the "Society for

	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	Promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland”; 10 copies of the Douay Testament, purchased by the Parish Priest. There have not been more [or?] less copies in the school for the last six months.
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.	I have never known any attempts being made to induce the children to change their religion. There does not appear to me to be any remarkable increase or diminution of pupils within the last year. During the spring and Harvest months, many of the children are kept at home by their parents which proves a very serious injury to them and is one of the greatest impediments to their improvement. The children of persons who are extremely poor (and the class is the most numerous) are frequently obliged to absent themselves from school either for want of food or clothing, not infrequently from want of both. No exertions, however persevering and well-disposed, can remedy this evil; for it is vain to talk of the advantage of education to people who are literally naked and suffering at the same time from the want of food. The parents of the children are anxious they should be educated, but the influence of the causes just mentioned in numberless instances render their wishes unavailing. To raise the character of the school and secure a regular attendance of the pupils, I have left no means untried, and I do believe that the full attendance which, notwithstanding the difficulties the poor have to grapple with, takes place every day at the school is owing principally to my exertions. Of the permanency of such full and regular attendance I have no doubt as long as the school has my support; deprive it of that stay, and my firm belief is that it will speedily fall to the ground.

		As I disapprove of that part of any system of education which puts the Sacred Scriptures in to the hands of the children, and believing as I most sincerely do, that it has impeded the progress of education in this country, I beg leave most respectfully to direct the attention of the “Commissioners of Education Inquiry” to the following observations: That the reading of the Scriptures be dispensed with in the schools, and that treatises which would convey to the minds of the children a knowledge of the morality of the Gospel to permitted to supply in their place; that the right of appointing duly qualified masters be vested in Roman Catholic Clergy and Gentry; that small salaries be paid to the masters so appointed, out of the fund appropriated by Parliament for the education of the poor (the gratuities given by the Kildare Street Society being only considered as checks on the masers to enforce the reading of the Scriptures in their schools); that Roman Catholic Prelates and Gentlemen have a share in the management of the Parliamentary grant. The adoption of these of like measures, would, I verily believe, give an immediate effect to the wishes of Parliament, and had they been acted upon at an earlier period, education would, I am convinced, have long since found its way to the remotest corners of the Kingdom, and the time of His Majesty’s Commissioners need not be consumed in endeavouring to ascertain the state of education, and inquiring into the causes which have arrested its progress in Ireland.
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2. Kill

1	State the name of the place at which the school is held, and state the name of the townland	In the Townland of 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	Fanny Moore; in 1819; on every day except Sundays and Holidays; the entire year.
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	R[oman] Catholic.
4	State the age, character, and qualifications of the Master or Mistress, and where he or	About 60 years of age; educated in Dublin; teaches the children to spell and read.

	she was educated, and whether trained in Kildare Place, or elsewhere, and where	
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 – 10 Females – 8 Protestants - Of the Established Church - Presbyterians - Of other denominations Roman Catholics - 18
6	State the average number of pupils during the last winter	10
7	State the average number of pupils, during the summer of 1823	10
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	[About half the parents of the pupils read]; children pay 2d.; are taught per week; the[y] read in about am[oun]t in the year, 4 months; is about £3 10s.
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	[See answer to question 8].
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 is a miserable hovel with a clay wall, only partially thatched; is 15 feet long & 10 feet wide; was built by the poor of the village, and about 10 shillings would build such a house!!
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	
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	
13	State the time at which the school was taken under the superintendence, as is referred to in the previous column	
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	Universal Spelling Book; Pious and Catholic Catechisms.
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. Newtown

In the Chapel of Newtown where about 130 children are instructed throughout the year on Sundays and Holidays in the Christian Doctrine.

4. Tirmoghan

In the village of Tirmoghan where from 60 to 80 children are instructed on every Sunday and Holy day in the Christian Doctrine.

Sworn before John Aylmer, Esqr.

Francis Haly, P.P.

Kilcock & Cloncurry