


Killesher Schools

The following table summarizes the location and history of schools in Killesher in the form of a short Gazetteer and was completed in June 2021 as part of the report *Bumblebees, Bicycles and Tilley Lamps: Killesher Schooldays Remembered*, by Barbara Graham and Lynne McKerr. This report, which can be accessed at <https://www.c2c.org.uk/reports/> documents the history of early schools in the parish and reminiscences of former pupils who attended some of the schools in the decades between World War 2 and the early 1960s. A gallery of further photographs also collected can be viewed at <https://www.c2c.org.uk/reports/>

Where school buildings have been demolished, the presumed location along with references to an Historical Ordnance Survey (OS) map are included:

1st Edition:1832-1846, 2nd Edition:1846-1862, 3rd Edition:1900-1907.

For further details, including locations shown on 20th century maps, readers can consult the Historical Maps Viewer (<https://apps.spatialni.gov.uk/PRONIApplication/>). School sites are marked with a small orange mortarboard ; where the term 'school-house or 'school' also appears beside a building the series date indicates the period the school was in use. Unfortunately dates of use cannot be accurately determined given the time span of the map series, and the fact that the 1846-1862 edition is not fully digitised.

Information in the table has been compiled from a number of sources:

Gaby Burns [(G. Burns (1)): *Killesher Parish*. 'Townland Map Grid' references on the table refer to the townland maps of the civil parish of Killesher in this volume (and shown in the main report). It also contains the excerpts from Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, completed in 1862 for Fermanagh, cited here.

The placenames information has been compiled mainly from www.placenamesni.org (a database of placenames in Northern Ireland) with some information also from <https://www.logainm.ie> (which covers the rest of Ireland), from the Townland name data base on the c2c website <https://www.c2c.org.uk/reports/>, from *A Dictionary of British Place-Names* by A.D. Mills, from databases of modern and Old Irish, and from people's understanding of their local townland names.

Gaby Burns [G. Burns (2)]: *Establishment of National Schools 1850s onwards: In Killinagh, Killesher and West Cleenish*. Available from <https://www.c2c.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-National-Schools-Gaby-Burns.pdf>

Genuki: *Killesher* (which contains information on the townlands, including the Ordnance Survey townland grid references cited here). Available from <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/FER/Killesher>.

Irish Education Inquiry: *Reports from Commissioners, 2nd Report 1826*


Ordnance Survey (OS) Memoirs of Ireland: *Parishes of Co. Fermanagh 1834-5. Lower Lough Erne.*

Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI): *Index to School Collections at PRONI*

In all, 31 (possibly 32) schools were recorded or reported, of which 13 were documented as being in existence before/by 1831 (the date that the National School system was introduced). The sites of 26 schools have been located on historic maps, although not all were photographed. A number of schools were reported locally or in official records which were not officially mapped: Drumcanon, an early school at Druminiskill, Macon (Macken), Wheathill (in Wheathill townland) and Rossmacawinney. Of these, only the Rossmacawinney site has been located. The Catholic parish of Killesher contains two further townlands, Crummer and Rossdanean, which are in the civil parish of Kinawley. No schools have been reported or recorded from either of these townlands, although that is not to say that no schools existed there, and they may come to light from local memory at some point in the future.

Where official reports give details of religious affiliation of teachers and pupils, these have been included. The original spellings in many reports vary from those in common use today, and where this has occurred, we have included the alternative spellings both as a measure of accuracy and to assist in any further research readers may wish to undertake.

The authors are grateful to Gaby Burns for his help and advice and permission to cite from his work. We would like to thank the residents of Killesher who have contributed information to this Gazetteer, particularly Packie Drumm and Jim Wilson whose help has been invaluable.

SCHOOL/TOWNLAND	SCHOOL NOTES
<p>Blunnick/ Bleenick</p> <p>OS Townland Grid Reference: 54.283361, -7.767014</p> <p>Griffiths' Valuation: Landowner(s): Thomas Baker, Simpson H. Brereton. No school recorded. Occupiers' names: Gregg, McCourt, Fawcett, Benson, Coffey, Farry, Mundy, Cox, Price.</p> <p>Townland Map Grid: B8</p> <p>Placename: Blunnick Placenamesni.org suggests the "root element in this place-name appears to be <i>blonag</i> 'soft fat, lard, blubber' (Ó Dónaill) or 'grease' (Dinneen) The 1611 form Agharosblonick might suggest <i>Achadh Ros Blonaige</i> 'field of the wood of the grease'."</p>	<p>'Bleenick, Killassher' is recorded in the Commissioners' Report (1826), noting 'School held in the kitchen of the master's house'. The master was Archibald Bridges (Protestant), and there were 23 pupils, 20 EC (Church of Ireland) and 3 RC. It was not supported by any Society. There is a later reference in the OS Memoirs to the London Hibernian Society (1834-35), which stated it was established in 1828, suggesting either a change of location or ownership. There were 45 boys and 47 girls enrolled, of whom 87 were Protestant and 5 were Catholic; parents paid 1d (in modern terms, less than ½ of a new penny) per week.</p> <p>The OS 1st Edition shows the 'School House'; the OS 3rd Edition shows the site at a staggered crossroads on the Blunnick Road, above Currien Gospel Hall. There is now no trace of the original building, but the probable site is located close to 97 Blunnick Road.</p>  <p>Junction of New Line/Blunnick Road with school site to right at laneway.</p>

Cladagh/Claddagh/Cladah

Knockageehan

Townland

[2, possibly 3, schools recorded]

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.266628, -7.802782

Griffiths Valuation: **Landowner(s):** Earl of Enniskillen. No school recorded, but a Methodist Meeting-house noted. **Occupiers' names:** Portis, Blair, Bowles, Bracken. Townland Map Grid D5

Placename: Knockageehan

Windy Hill [c2c]

Cnoc an Ghaoithin 'hill of the breeze' [Placenamesni.org]

'*cnoc*' – hill and '*gaoth*' – wind, breeze

Cladagh/Claddagh

From the Irish- *An Cladach* – the shore.

School 1: 'Cladah, Killassher'. The OS memoirs state that the school was founded in 1823. The Commissioners' Report (1826) states that the master was Stephen Loughlin (Roman Catholic), and the school was held in a thatched house 27 x12 ft. There were 30 pupils, 27 boys and three girls; there is some difference between the returns made by Protestant and Catholic clergy, with the number of Catholic children being given as 13 and 8 respectively, the others being Protestant. It was not supported by any societies, and the report stated that 'The Earl of Enniskillen gives the school-house'. By 1834/35, the OS Memoirs recorded the number of pupils at the school in Knockageehan had risen to 40, 25 boys and 15 girls, of whom 30 were Protestant and 10 Catholic.

Local memory of the building below [1] indicates that it has been an Orange Hall (owned by Lord Enniskillen), and possibly the site of an old school previously. Internal dimensions are approximately in line with those given in the report, so this may be the original 'Cladah' school.



However, the OS 1st Edition map marks a '*Methodist Chapel and School Ho.*', at a site just to the southeast of Cladagh bridge. Currently there is not enough information to determine if this is the original 'Cladah' school noted above, or if it is another school site; by the time of Griffith's Valuation in 1862, there were no active schools noted and only a Methodist meeting house was recorded in the townland.

School 2: Cladagh National School


This school first appears on the OS 3rd Edition map as 'Cladagh School'. Photograph [2] shows the school in the 1950s. The application to become a National School in 1882 stated the teacher was Richard Robb (EC), formerly Principal of Newtownmore. He received a salary of £44 and 'free residence and garden' (worth £10) per year. 63 pupils were enrolled, 31 boys and 32 girls. The Hon. John Cole was Patron. In 1883, there was a further application for a 'workmistress', Mary Boyd; the number of pupils had risen to 80. Miss Alicia Latimer and Mary Ker were recorded as Monitresses (pupil teachers). Records exist until 1930. [G. Burns (2)].



Photographs of the old school courtesy of Jim Wilson.

The building is now a dwelling house at 133 Marble Arch Road [3]. Note the date above the door: 1880.



<p>Derryhawlagh/ Derryhowlett</p> <p>OS Townland Grid Reference: 54.270815, -7.639304</p> <p>Griffiths Valuation: Landowner(s): Commissioners of Education, Bernard Maguire, Thomas Maguire. Occupiers' names: Maguire, McArdle, McAlister, McManus, Lunny, McCauley, McHugh, Hevy.</p> <p>Townland Map Grid: C17</p> <p>Placename: Derryhawlagh Plague pit oak grove [c2c] <i>Doire Thamlachta</i>- 'oak-wood of the burial' (www.placenamesni.org)</p> <p>'doire' – oak wood, and 'tamhlacht' – támh (plague), <i>leacht</i> (grave mound)</p>	<p>The school was first established in 1832, by a grant from Queen Mary 'for the education of the Protestants of Fermanagh'; shortly afterwards it was reported as a National School in the OS Memoirs, with 35 children enrolled. There were 15 boys and 20 girls, of whom 18 were Protestants and 17 Catholics. The '<i>School Ho.</i>' is shown on the OS 1st Edition map, but thereafter only the symbol appears. It was not recorded in Griffith's Valuation for the townland, indicating it had closed by 1862.</p> <p>Later maps show the site in a field accessed from a lane behind 287 Derrylin Road.</p>
<p>Derrylester / Derrylister</p> <p>OS Townland Grid Reference: 54.253994, -7.696352</p> <p>Griffith's Valuation: Landowner(s): Commissioners of Education. No school recorded; RC chapel listed. Occupiers' names: Maguire, Bracken.</p> <p>Townland Map Grid: F13</p> <p>Placename Derrylester According to placenamesni.org the name most likely comes from Irish " <i>Doire an Leastair</i> - 'oak-wood of the vessel'... the word <i>leastar</i> may appear figuratively to refer to some sort of hollow or depression in the ground."</p>	<p>The school is shown in the OS 1st Edition at the site of St Patrick's Chapel, Tiravalley Road (close to the location of the former Drumcard School). By the time of the 2nd Edition, it appears the school was no longer in use, and it is not recorded in Griffith's Valuation. There is now no trace of Derrylester school in the Chapel grounds.</p>  <p>The OS Memoirs state that the school was founded in 1826, with 40 pupils, 14 boys and 16 girls, of whom 13 were Protestant and 17 Catholic. The school was supported by the Commissioner of School Lands and by fees.</p>

Drumbrughas/Drumbrochas

[Two schools recorded]

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.264162, -7.647778

Griffiths Valuation: **Landowner(s):** Commissioners of Education. Police barracks and (original) school-house recorded- listed as properties 10c (Barracks) and 11b (School-house)- Bernard Maguire listed as Occupiers' of 11a (possibly the Schoolmaster).

Occupiers' names: McManus, Carren, Hevy, Mackell, Droogan, Maguire, McCaffrey, Murray, Magrath, McGoldrick, Farmer, Quentin, Keenan, McBrien, Murphy, Gunn. Townland Map Grid: F12

Placename: Drumbrughas

Badger den ridge. [c2c]

Drum Brochlas "ridge of the badger warren" is attributed to John O'Donovan in the OS Name Books

School 1: 'Drumbrocas'

The OS 1st Edition map shows the 'School house' beside a building listed in 3rd Edition as 'Mackan Constabulary'. The Commissioners' Report of 1826 lists Drumbrocas as '*School house not complete*'. Later returns record it as thatched and built of sods. The Master was Owen O'Rorke ('protestant'), with 64 pupils, 10 EC and 54 RC. The school was supported by the London Hibernian Society, and 'Dr O'Beirne gives 4/ 11s. per ann.'. The OS memoirs list it as 'Drumbrecas' established in 1831, with 77 pupils, 47 males and 40 females (of whom 27 were Protestant and 50 Catholics), supported by the Kildare Place Society, suggesting either a change of location or ownership. The children paid '1d. per week' - one old penny. Only the site is listed on the 3rd Edition, indicating that it went out of use at some point prior to 1900-1907. This is possibly the school recalled locally as 'Mackan', as no school in the townland of that name has been recorded on OS maps or in Griffith's Valuation. The photograph in [1] shows the possible site at 321 Derrylin Road, now occupied by a dwelling, beside the former Constabulary barracks (*photograph courtesy of Ann McTeggart*).



School 2: Drumbrughas /Drumbrughas Public Elementary school.

A former National School, it is listed on the 3rd Edition OS map as 'Drumbrughas School' and on the OS 6 ins to 1-mile Irish Grid (1952-1967) as Drumbrughas Primary School; it is now a dwelling house, 5 Druminiskill Road shown at [2] below, where the owners have meticulously researched and restored the former schoolroom as a living room. The school closed in 1972.



Drumcard / Crossroads

[Two schools recorded on this site]

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.253994, -7.696352

Griffith's Valuation: **Landowner(s):**

Commissioners of Education.

'National School-house' reported.

Occupiers' names: Gaddis, Sheanan, Price, Cassidy.

[G. Burns (1) p.65]

Townland Map Grid: F12

Placename: Drumcard

Ridge of the forge [c2c]

The school was sited at a crossroads, hence known locally as Crossroads School.

Droim – ridge, *Ceard*, craftsman, artisan, which would certainly fit with there being a forge on the site.

Placenamesni.org mentions the earliest form of the name "*Droimdardagh* (1609)" [from the Barony Maps] "might suggest *Droim Dá Ardach* 'ridge of two high fields'"

School 1: This school is reported on the OS 1st Edition map. The OS Memoirs indicate that it was established in 1832 and supported by the Commissioners of School Lands and by parental fees, with 65 pupils, 46 boys and 19 girls, of whom 18 were Protestant and 47 were Catholic.

School 2: (known locally as the Crossroads school) This seems to have replaced School 1 and is shown at approximately the same site on the OS 2nd Edition map as '*Crossroads National School*', confirming it was established by 1862. The OS 3rd Edition map shows the building, now simply labelled '*School*', sited at the junction of the Old Coach Road and the Tiravalley Road. It was closed in 1957 when the new school in Derrylester opened. The former building is now a modern house incorporating some of the old school walls, at 151 Tiravalley Road.



Drumduff

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.261991, -7.701631

Griffith's Valuation: **Landowner(s):**

Earl of Enniskillen. No school was recorded, indicating it dates from somewhere between c. 1862-1907.

Occupiers' names: Anderson, Beresford, Rutherford, Scott, Patterson, Gaddis.

Townland Map Grid: E12

Placename: Drumduff

Black Ridge

From 'droim'- ridge, and 'dubh'- black (appears as duff or doo in Anglicised placenames)

'Drumduff School' is shown on the OS 3rd Edition map; the 2nd Edition shows the site of the school at what was then a Methodist meeting house, suggesting that the meeting house later became the school. In the 1889 National School application by Florencecourt school it was noted that Drumduff's Principal was Stewart Green ('EC'), with 71 pupils- 6 'RC', 39 'EC', 2 Presbyterian, 30 'others', presumably Methodist; the manager was a Methodist minister, the Rev. G. Spence [G. Burns (2)]

The school, with its distinctive windows, was on a site behind the property at 197 Swanlinbar Road; it was demolished in 1965



Photograph courtesy of Raymond and Carol Robinson

Drumhack/ Drumack

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.262116, -7.670002

Griffith's Valuation: **Landowner(s):**

Commissioners for Education, Mary Murphy. No school recorded at that time. **Occupiers' names:** Bracken, Murphy, McCauley, Walmsley.

Townland Map Grid E15

Placename: Drumhack

Frost Ridge

'John O Donovan, in the OS Namebooks uses the form "*Droim Seaca* 'ridge of the frost'. However, the sole 17th century form *Dromhacken* (1659) might suggest *Droim Thacán* 'ridge of the stumps' as the element *tacán* appears as a variant of *stacán* 'pale, stake, stump' (Ó Dónaill, s.v. *tacán*).'" (placenamesni.org)

Drumhack school is recorded on the OS 1st Edition map. The OS Memoirs note that it was a fee paying school established in 1834, and had 36 pupils, all Protestants, of whom 26 were male and 10 were female. It does not appear on subsequent maps, and is not recorded in Griffith's Valuation, indicating that by 1862 it was no longer in use. No trace remains of the original building, but the approximate location, accessed by a laneway approximately a quarter of a mile west of a dwelling at 51 Drumhack Road, is shown in the photograph below.



Druminiskill

[2 schools recorded]

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.266878, -7.662964

Griffith's Valuation: lists 'Church & yard, school-house'. **Landowner(s):** Earl of Enniskillen. The school-house is listed together with the church as 13a & b.

Occupiers' names: Thompson, Phair, Flanagan, Leonard, Walmsley, Cartwright, Burly, Lunny, Moore, Montgomery.

Townland Map Grid: D15

Placename: Druminiskill

White Hollow Ridge (c2c)

Placenamesni.org list it as possibly from the Irish '*Droim Ineasclainn*' "*Droim*' - ridge, and *Fionasclainn* or *ineasclann* [appears in Cormac's Glossary as *inesclund* where it is explained as 'a swift or strong stream']"

The Commissioners' Report lists the original school-house as being built with sods. The master was John Lunny (Roman Catholic) who received 8 l (£) per year), with 30 pupils, 24 'Protestant' and 6 'Roman Catholic'. It does not appear on the OS 1st Edition map, suggesting it was closed by then; there is no reference to it in the OS memoirs, completed in 1834/35 and it is not certain if it occupied the site of the later school. The more recent school was built at some point thereafter; it is included in Griffith's Valuation for the townland and is shown on the OS 3rd Edition map as '*Druminiskill School*' to the rear of Druminiskill Chapel of Ease. It was an unusual building, with two projecting wings; the school was in the centre while the wing on the left was an Orange Hall, and that on the right was the home of the schoolteacher. It continued to appear, this time as '*Druminiskill Pr Sch*' on the OS Six Inch to One Mile Irish Grid (1952-1967) but closed in 1958 with the opening of the new Florencecourt Primary School. The former building [1] was demolished in 2002 (photograph courtesy of Basil Chambers); there is now a church hall on the site [2].



**Drummacabranagher/
Drumnacavanagh**

OS Townland Grid Reference:
54.268683, -7.690258

Griffith's Valuation: **Landowner(s):**
Earl of Enniskillen, Connor McCauley.
No school is listed, indicating it was
no longer in use at that time.

Occupiers' names: Hodgins,
Cartwright, Rooney, Mathers,
Walmsley, Abercrombie, Crawford,
McCauley, McCaffrey, McCleary,
Thompson, McHugh, Maguire.

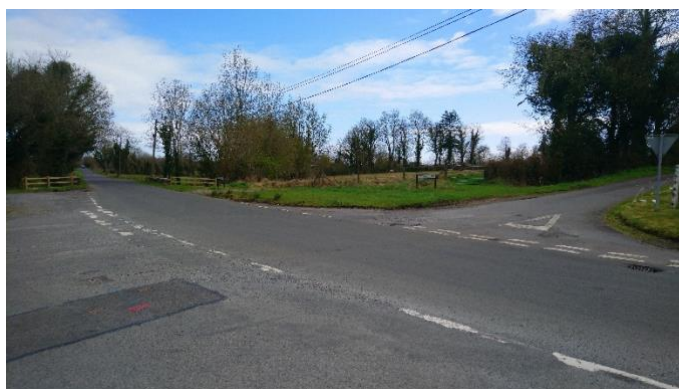
Townland Map Grid E13

Placename: Drummacabranagher

McBranagher's ridge (c2c)

The school is shown on the OS 1st Edition map at a crossroads; only the site appears on 3rd edition onwards. Road layouts have changed, and the 5th Edition map shows the approximate location at the intersection with Old Coach Road and Druminiskill Road. Local knowledge suggests that this is possibly the school noted as 'Vance's Turn' in the Commissioners' Report, which was described as 'a good thatched house' worth about £20. The master was Johnstone Poguin ('protestant') whose salary was about £16/year. There were 62 pupils enrolled, 42 boys and 20 girls, of whom 32 were 'of the Established Church' and 30 were Roman Catholic. It was a pay school but supported by the Kildare Place Society and the London Hibernian Society; the Earl of Enniskillen gave '5/ 13s 9d' each year (£5.69; equivalent to approximately £640 in today's money). This is also probably the school recorded in the OS Memoirs as 'Drumnacavanagh', established in 1825, with 84 pupils, 24 boys and 24 girls, of whom 24 were noted as Protestant and 24 as Catholic. As with the details from the Commissioner's report on Vance's Turn, it had been supported by the Kildare Place Society but by 1834/35, it was supported solely by the Earl of Enniskillen and by parents.

The school-house no longer exists, but the approximate location of the site at Vance's Turn is shown below



<p>Florencecourt Demense</p> <p>OS Townland Grid Reference: 54.256501, -7.729568</p> <p>Griffith's Valuation for this townland: Landowner(s): Earl of Enniskillen. There is no school recorded. Occupiers' names: Earl of Enniskillen, Walmsley, Farmer, McKeana, Godburgh.</p> <p>Townland Map Grid: E10</p> <p>Placename: Mullanashangan (historically) Summit of the ants [Mills].</p> <p>From the Irish- <i>Mullach na Seangán</i> (Mills).</p> <p>Gortnakelly / Gortnacally/ Gortnacully</p> <p>OS Townland Grid Reference: 54.266878, -7.729912</p> <p>Griffith's Valuation. Landowner(s): Earl of Enniskillen. School-house recorded. Occupiers' names: Gaddis, Johnstone, Maguire, Crawford, Godwin, Hogan, McCauley, Wade, Bracken, Wilson.</p> <p>Townland Map Grid: D10</p> <p>Placename: Gortnacally Hag's field</p> <p>From Irish 'gort'- field and 'na caillí' (<i>Cailleach</i>)- hag, witch,</p>	<p>There is a school listed as 'Florence-court' in the Commissioners' Report, supported by the London Hibernian Society and an annual donation from the Earl of Enniskillen and the Rev. C. Beresford. It was the Parish School, and the schoolmaster was William Wade, 'protestant'. The school-house measured 20x30 feet and was thatched, 'property of the Earl of Enniskillen'. It had 40 pupils, 31 Protestant and 9 Roman Catholic, of whom 26 were boys and 14 were girls. However, although called 'Florencecourt' the school may be that recorded in 'Gortnacally' (now Gortnakelly) townland as below.</p> <p>The school in Gortnakelly was listed on the OS 1st Edition, sitting directly on the boundary between Florencecourt Demense and Gortnakelly townlands, as '<i>School Ho. & Post Office</i>'. The OS memoirs state that it was established in 1833 and was the Parish school, indicating an overlap with 'Florencecourt' school above. It had 35 pupils, 23 boys and 12 girls. There were 22 Protestants and 13 Catholics, and the school was supported by the parents as well as the Earl of Enniskillen and the rector, Mr Beresford.</p> <div data-bbox="687 869 1404 1366"> </div> <p>The Post Office and the old school (the right side of the building). <i>Photograph courtesy of Basil Chambers.</i></p> <p>'Florencecourt school' applied for National School status in 1889; the building was described as of 'stone and mortar and slated'. It was 2-storied, and 32 feet long. One room was a temporary residence for the school master, Matthew McClelland ('Presbyterian'). It was formerly supported by the Church Education Society [G. Burns (2)]. After the National School system was discontinued following Partition in 1921, this became Florencecourt Primary school, also known as the 'Old Gate school'; Mr Robert (Bobby) Thompson was the last principal, and it was closed when the new Florencecourt Primary School opened in 1958. The old school was demolished and subsequently replaced by the present residential buildings at 50-52 Marble Arch Road.</p>
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Greentown/ Knocknabrattoige

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.26377, -7.752185

Griffith's Valuation: **Landowner(s):**

Earl of Enniskillen. No school recorded. **Occupiers' names:** Wilson, Irwin, Latimer, McGuinny, McKean, Teel, Mullanphy, Howe.

Townland Map Grid: D5

Placename: Knocknabrattoige

Hill of the rag (c2c)

From Irish *Cnoc na Bratóige* - 'cnoc' - hill and 'bratóige' - of the rag.

Bratóg means rag, small cloak, covering, piece of cloth.

Placenamesni.org suggests a possible "connection with *bratóg Bhríde* 'St Brigid's cloak or mantle', a phrase which refers to a folk belief in the protective powers of an item of clothing left overnight in a basket on St Brigid's Eve. "

The school is shown on the OS 1st Edition map as located on the Greentown Road, a short distance from the Marble Arch Road at Florencecourt; the Commissioners' Report states that the building was a barn. The master was Edward Magrath ('R. catholic') and 25 children were enrolled (13 Protestant and 12 Roman Catholic) and it was not supported by any societies. The OS memoirs indicate that by 1834/35 there were 40 pupils, 30 males and 10 females and it was supported by the parents of the pupils. It was not listed in Griffith's Valuation, confirming that it had closed at some point before 1862 and only the symbol appears on subsequent OS maps. There are two further schools on the Greentown Road, but in Lisblake townland.

The site shown below [1] has been identified locally as that of the former school, situated diagonally opposite Elliot's house [2] at 19 Greentown Road.



Killyblane

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.245644, -7.717981

Griffiths' Valuation: Landowner(s):

Earl of Enniskillen. No school recorded. **Occupiers' names:** Chambers, Sheridan.

Townland Map Grid: G11

Placename: Killyblane

Hollow Wood (c2c) or

White Wood

From Irish *Coillidh Bhán* - "white wood"

[*Coill* - wood, *bán* - white]

The 'School Ho.' is shown on the OS 1st Edition map in an isolated area with no direct access from a main road. The OS memoirs state that the school was founded in 1834 and supported by the parents of the pupils. There were 24 children enrolled, 18 boys and 6 girls, and all were Protestant. Subsequently it appears only as a site on OS maps, and it is not recorded in Griffith's Valuation indicating it had closed by 1862. The 5th Edition OS map shows the site aligned with buildings along a short laneway leading off Corrawully Lane, close to the northerly boundary of the townland. The possible site [1] is approached by a short lane [2]



Lisblake

[Two schools recorded: Lisblake and Wheathill]

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.26377, -7.752185

Griffith's Valuation: Landowner(s):

Earl of Enniskillen, George Brackenridge, Robert Trimble, Richard Bracken, Martha Trimble, William Coombert, John Trimble, Andrew Moffat. No school recorded.

Occupiers' names:

Ellis, Brackenridge, McGovern, McGurney, Bracken, McGrath, Trimble, Brady, Hodgins, McCauley, Vance, Greddin, Brennan, Irwin, Latimer.

Townland Map Grid: C9

Placename: Lisblake

Buttermilk Fort (c2c)

From Irish *Lios*- fort and *Bláithich*- of the buttermilk.

"*Lios* in this townland name refers to a large, well preserved counterscarp rath, 62m in diameter which is well preserved" (NISMR) placenamesni.org.

Lisblake school is shown on the OS 3rd Edition map; it is not listed in Griffith's Valuation, but shortly thereafter, a National School application was made in September 1864, noting two schoolteachers, and again in May 1865; In 1889 Henry Stewart ('EC') was recorded as the Principal, and Eliza Kelly ('RC') was the temporary workmistress. There were 57 pupils, 54 of whom were 'EC' and 3 were described as 'others' [G. Burns (2)]. Initially it was a 'mixed' school, but local knowledge indicates that by the 20th century, it was regarded as a 'Protestant' school. It was closed in 1953 and demolished in 2005, as it was structurally compromised; a new house occupies the former site but references the school's history in its name.



Wheathill school is not the school originally listed in the Commissioners' Report as 'Wheat Hill' in the townland of that name. Local knowledge indicates that it transferred from the original townland, although as no school is recorded in Wheathill on any of the early OS maps it presumably closed in the period between 1826-46.

The present building in Lisblake townland was not listed in Griffith's Valuation. In the National School application by Florencecourt School in 1889, Wheathill was cited as having an average attendance of 32 pupils, and the manager was Rev. O'Reilly. The present building was regarded as the Catholic counterpart to Lisblake school; it is still standing, though sadly derelict.



Lisdivrick

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.25996, -7.766814

Griffith's Valuation:

Landowner(s): Earl of Enniskillen.

'School-house' recorded. **Occupiers'**

names: Johnstone, Bowles,

McDonnell, Monaghan, Irwin, Kerr,

Scarlett.

Townland Map Grid: E8

Placename: Lidivrick

Durack's Fort (c2c)

From Irish- '*lios*' -fort and the name
Duibhrick (placenamesni.org)

This is shown as a '*School-house*' on the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps, facing the Marble Arch Road. The OS memoirs report that it was established in 1834, and 'now building at the expense of Lord Cole for the children of his tenantry'. There were 40 pupils. By 1862, it appears in Griffith's Valuation as the 'Church Education Society's school-house'.

In later editions, only the site is marked and as it was recorded in Griffith's Valuation, this suggests that it went out of use at some point between 1862-1900. It was located behind what is now 85 Marble Arch Road. The site is close to the junction with the road now called the New Line which leads past the Holy Well in nearby Mullynahunshin townland. The possible site viewed from the Marlbank Loop road [1] and the junction [2] are shown below.



**Marble Arches /
Marblearch /Marlbank School**

Tromogagh townland

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.231991, -7.840949

Griffith's Valuation:

Landowner(s): Earl of Enniskillen. No school listed. **Occupiers' names:** Monaghan, McGorran, Hultahan, Elliot, Coyle, Stafford.

Townland Map Grid E15

Placename: Tromogagh

From Irish '*Tromógach*' - 'place of little elder trees' - *tromm* can refer to the elder-tree, or to a place producing elder (placenamesni.org)

The school is first shown on the OS 3rd Edition map as '*Marblearch School*'. It was built in 1883, and the school manager, Rev Patrick O'Reilly PP, completed a National School application in that year for the appointment of a school mistress [G. Burns (2)]. It is subsequently recorded as '*Marble Arches Pr. Sch.*' in the Six inch to One Mile Irish Grid (1919-1963).

The school could be accessed from a steep lane leading off the Marlbank Road; the stone-built school building still exists, although now roofless and derelict. It closed in 1967. It is also known locally as the 'Marlbank School'; this is not associated with the earlier school in Marlbank townland but appears to have acquired the name when the loop road from Marlbank was completed (1955) and the area enclosed became more generally referred to as 'Marlbank'.



Marlbank

OS Townland Grid Reference:
54.274096, -7.858915

Griffith’s Valuation: **Landowner(s):**
Earl of Enniskillen. No school
recorded. **Occupiers’ names:** Elliot,
Gildea, Ray, Nixon, Sheridan, Dolan,
Hultahan.

Townland Map Grid C1

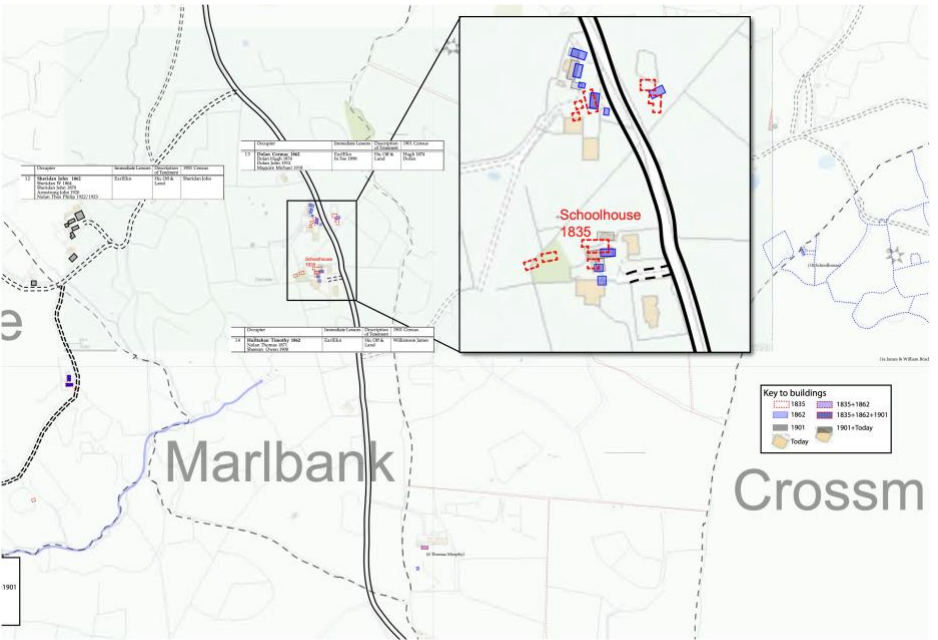
Placename: Marlbank

Bank of the marl or silt.

From Irish *Bruach* - bank and *an*
Mharla- the marl or silt.
(Placenamesni.org)

This early school is marked as a ‘*School Ho.*’ on the OS 1st Edition map; although it is not included in the returns of 1824 to the Commissioner’s Report the OS Memoirs note that it was established in 1823, with 30 pupils. There were 13 boys and 17 girls enrolled, of whom 10 were Protestant and 20 Catholic. On the OS 2nd Edition map, only the site is marked, which suggests that the school ceased to run at some time between 1846-1862 and this is confirmed by its absence from Griffith’s Valuation of the townland.

The school has since vanished, but the site is located just behind the building known locally as Sheerin’s shop, at 86 Marlbank Road.



Map courtesy of Gaby Burns

Mullaghbane

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.284871, -7.86389

Griffith's Valuation:

Landowner(s): Earl of Enniskillen, Thomas Elliot. 'National School-house' reported. **Occupiers' names:** Elliot, Dolan, Willis, Loughlin.

Townland Map Grid: B1

Placename:

Mullaghbane

White hilltop/summit

From Irish *Mullach* - hilltop/summit and *Bán* - white.

The school was founded 1837; it became a National School in 1846 and appears on the OS 2nd Edition map marked as such, on the Marble Arch Road close to the county boundary at Blacklion. It was closed in 1862. In the original National School application, the school master is Stephen Loughlin, described as being 'of good character' and a Catholic [G. Burns (2)]. The school-house was recorded as being of stone and thatched, measuring 17 x 13 x 7 ft; subsequent applications were for a needlework mistress, Alice Loughlin (aged 27) in 1848 and a monitress, Catherine Loughlin (aged 14) in 1853. In 1854, the master was fined for using the school-house as residence.

There is now no trace of the school, but the site is described as follows: '*... on the left on the road from Florencecourt to Blacklion just before Freddie Elliot's and Basil Elliot's two houses beside the county boundary approx. 3/4 of a mile from Blacklion. The field is still known today as Loughlins field!*' [G. Burns (2)].



The photograph shows the approximate location of the school on the left-hand side of the road, midway between the tree in the foreground and the lane just visible beyond.

**Mullanavehy /
Mullinavigh**

[2 schools recorded]

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.276423, -7.686248

From Griffith's Valuation:

Landowner(s): Commissioners of Education, John Maguire, Hugh Keenan, Thomas Maguire, Thomas Cox, Glover Little. 'National School-house' recorded. **Occupiers' names:** Maguire, Drum, McManus, Keenan, Cleary, Vance, Gallagher, Lilly, Cox, Clennan, Kilbride, Devine, Little, Cartwright, McLoughlin (Grocer), Kilroy.

Townland Map Grid: C13

Placename: Mullanavehy

Birch tree summit (c2c)

From Irish *Mullán* - summit and *an Bheithe* - of the birch.

The school-house is documented on the 1st Edition OS map, which shows it to the immediate south-east of Arney bridge [1]. The 1849 application for a National School grant for a teacher indicated it was established in 1847; however, the OS Memoirs record a school at 'Mullinavigh', established in 1831 with 20 children, 7 boys and 13 girls of whom 5 were Protestant and 15 Catholic. It was supported by the parents of the pupils. The school was built of brick and lime mortar, and the roof was thatched. Overall, the building measured 37ft x 15ft x 7ft, which included two rooms for the teacher's residence. James Dolan, aged 22, was named as the schoolmaster, and there were 40 boys and 20 girls on the roll. The school was no longer present in the 3rd Edition OS map of the area (dated 1905–07), suggesting that by then it had been demolished. It was replaced by nearby Arney/Mullanavehy Primary School, itself replaced in 1964 by Mullymesker school in Arney village; a new dwelling occupies the site. The history of the schools can be accessed from <http://www.battlesbricksandbridges.org/admin/resources/arney-school-stories-and-history22-1.pdf>



The site of the earliest school was excavated in 2014 by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork at Queen's University Belfast, as part of the '*Battles Bricks and Bridges*' project: <http://www.battlesbricksandbridges.org/about-us.php>. This was the first recorded excavation of a National School in Ireland; the floorplan can be identified in the photograph [2] below.



Rossmacawinny

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.286004, -7.752398

Griffith's Valuation:

Landowner(s): Francis Carson, Earl of Enniskillen, James Browne, Sarah Colter. 'School' recorded. **Occupiers' names:** Maguire, Carson, Browne, Price, Elliot, Colter, Donnelly.

Townland Map Grid B9.

Placename: Rossmacawhinney

MacSwiney's wood or MacSwiney's point

From Irish *Ros* + family name

Ros can refer to a wood or a peninsula but "in the case of this inland townland, the interpretation of 'wood' might be more appropriate."

(placenamesni.org)

The school is not listed in the Commissioner's Report or the OS Memoirs and is not shown on any of the Historic OS map series. However, it was reported in Griffiths' Valuation c. 1862 as the 'Church Education Society's School'. The building was sited up a laneway behind a later house at 59 Blunnick Road; Mr Billy Brown, whose grandfather went to Rossmacawinney, recalls the history of the school. He remembers it being demolished about 35 years ago (1986). The view along Blunnick Lane [1], which led to the school, and the former site [2] are shown below.



Tully/Violet Hill

OS Townland Grid Reference:

54.261113, -7.712574

Griffith's Valuation:

Landowner(s): Earl of Enniskillen. No school recorded. **Occupiers' names:** Taylor, (Rev) Crampton, Walmsley.

Townland Map Grid: E12

Placename: Tully

Hill

Possibly from the Irish '*tulach*' -
hillock

The OS 1st Edition map shows a school-house beside the Rectory and located behind the mill pond and corn mill. The OS Memoirs state that it was established in 1829 and supported by the Earl of Enniskillen; it appears to have been a girls' school, with 44 pupils, of whom 37 were Protestant and 7 were Catholic. It does not appear on subsequent editions of the OS map series. The school no longer exists but the site [1] is located close to the Old Rectory, behind what is now the Larganess Centre/Tully Mill on the Mill Road, Florencecourt [2].



Schools not located

<p>Drumcanon</p> <p>OS Townland Grid Reference: 54.264162, -7.647778</p> <p>Griffith's Valuation: Landowner(s): Commissioners of Education. No school recorded. Occupiers' names: Maguire, Cassidy, Drum, McManus, McCaffrey, McHugh, Mason, Hevy, Browne, Magrath.</p> <p>Townland Map Grid: G3 Placename: Drumcanon Speckled Ridge From the Irish <i>Droim Ceann-fhionn</i> (placenamesni.org/ c2c).</p>	<p>This school was recalled locally but could not be located on maps or in public records. It is possibly a hedge or barn school which pre-dated the Commissioners' Report of 1826.</p> <p>It could also have been a later school supported outside the National system which was not in use at times when the area was mapped.</p>
<p>Mackan/Macon/ Macken Glebe</p> <p>OS Townland Grid Reference: 54.257437, -7.645019</p> <p>Griffith's Valuation: Landowner(s): Rev. Josiah Crampton. No School recorded. Occupiers' names: McCauley, McHugh, McGrinry, Gaddis, Monaghan, Maguire, Carrell, McConnell, Burly, Keys, McManus, Cluff.</p> <p>Townland Map Grid: E16</p> <p>Placename: Mackan Glebe</p> <p>Swelling Hill (c2c)</p> <p>"The literal meaning of Irish <i>meacan</i> is 'root/tuber' but it appears to be used figuratively to signify 'a swelling hill'." (placenamesni.org)</p>	<p>Local history suggests this was a hedge school, and this would seem to be partly confirmed by the Commissioners' Report for 'Killassher': there is a school-house listed at Macon, in a barn lent by a farmer, the mistress being Bridget Maguire, ('R. catholic'), who received £3 per year. There were either 40 or 50 pupils (returns vary), all 'Roman Catholic'. No Society gave support. There is no school listed in the OS map series for Mackan/ Macken townland, or in the OS Memoirs, suggesting it had closed at some point before 1834-35.</p> <p>It is possible the school relocated to Drumbrughas, at the site shown as adjacent to the former 'Macken constabulary barracks' in that townland, in much the same way as 'Wheathill' relocated to Lisblake townland (see also below).</p>

<p>Wheathill</p> <p>OS Townland Grid Reference 54.265826, -7.787932</p> <p>Griffith's Valuation: Landowner(s): James Clarke, James Boyd. No school recorded. Occupiers' names: Boyd, Magee, Kerr, Corrigan, Gregg, Wilson</p> <p>Map Grid D7</p>	<p>This is not the later Wheathill school familiar to present day Killesher residents, which is in Lisblake townland. The 'Wheat Hill' school in Wheathill townland was recorded in the parish of 'Killassher' in the Commissioners' Report of 1826 and the condition was described as 'very bad, built of sods'. The master was Bryan Gillied ('R. catholic') whose annual salary was 'about 9' (£9) and there were 30 pupils, 21 of whom were Protestant and 9 were Roman Catholic. It was supported by the London Hibernian Society.</p> <p>It does not appear on any OS maps and is not recorded in either the OS Memoirs or in the later Griffith's Valuation, suggesting it had closed prior to 1834-35, although again it may have been re-opened for a time between the recording of different OS map series. The name re-appeared when the later 'Wheathill' school was founded in Lisblake townland.</p>
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