

WESTLAND ROW CBS PUPIL ARCHIVE

INSTRUCTIONS AND HANDY HINTS

General Description and Instructions

This pupil archive is being built in phases. Eventually, it will cover the period from when the school first opened on 1 October, 1864 to 1928, when the available records ceased. Currently, the system covers the period 1887 to 1928.

Over that period, the records varied in both quality and the range of material covered. In a minority of the records, only the pupil's name is given, but in most cases the records include number on the register, name, address, date of admission, date of birth, and father's occupation. In some cases, the previous school is recorded as is progression through exams or grades.

The records are drawn from a number of registers which appear on the home page. Searches conducted will cover all the registers, and will reveal all pupils with the name you submit, and the relevant register. By clicking on particular names, you will be transported to the hand written page in the original register containing that name. The system is set up recognise John Byrne or simply Byrne, and it is not case-sensitive. Byrne John will **not** work.

The archive can also be used by browsing through each of the registers. This is particularly useful where information on a second page, such as progression through exams or grades, and in a small minority of cases, notes on where the pupil went (ie Accountant etc) after school. These second pages are usually denoted as "a". So, if your search brings you to page 98 on a particular register, you can find page 98a by browsing the register.

The initial phase of the project concentrated on a period where records were generally in better condition, but which also coincided with pupils who would take part in the Great War or the 1916 Rising and subsequent events. So, you will find the Pearses and other participants in the freedom movement, as well as participants in the Great War. Consulting *Cuimhneachán* – the PPU's publication to mark the 150th anniversary of the school – will give you many prompts on names you may wish to search. Of course, you can also search for family members. As an aside, Patrick Pearse was incorrectly registered as "Pierse", but you will find him under "Pierse" or "Pearse". Willie Pearse was correctly registered.

Handy Hints

- Sometimes, if your search by first and surname fails, try simply the surname, but be prepared to wade through more names, especially if your search is for "Byrne"!
- In general, the O prefix is not accompanied by the apostrophe. Thus, "O Connell" will find the target, rather than "O'Connell"
- Allow for mis-spellings in the original registers, or simply different ways of spelling names current at the time, or problems of interpretation by those transferring material from hand-written records. Thus, "Leary" could be "Leavy", "Rathcliffe" or "Radcliffe", "Staines" or "Stains" "Flannagan" or "Flanagan", "Coleman" or "Colman", "Killbride" or "Kilbride" etc. The

above are actual examples from the records, but there are many more which may require some ingenuity on the part of those using the system.

- Abbreviations of first names in the original registers can cause a number of problems. For example, “Jos” (Joseph) might appear to be “Jas” (James). So, a search of both could be tried. Also, the system will not recognise “Joseph” if the original entry is recorded as “Jos”. So, a search for “John Joseph Adams” will not locate “John Jos Adams”. Similarly, if the original entry is “Chris”, “Christy” or “Christie”, a search using “Christopher” will not find it. Hence the advice above to use just surnames as a fall back.
- In some cases, the original entries have a number after the name – perhaps a reference to the class or school room. In some cases, these were carried through by those extracting the records for the Archive project. Thus, a search for “Walter Kingham” will not yield fruit if his original entry was “Walter Kingham 2”. Again, try simply “Kingham”
- For history buffs, De Valera sent his 4 sons to Westland Row (and he was described in the “Father’s Occupation” column as “President IR” even after he had ceased to be President of the Irish Republic). The spelling above is the one to use.