

Daly, Margaret, 2012, *An Investigation into the Operation of the Parents' Association in Three Schools Participating in the DEIS Initiative.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This study examines the operation of the Parents' Associations in three primary schools in a city in the south of Ireland participating in the DEIS initiative which supports schools serving the educationally disadvantaged. This study investigates the extent to which the statutory provision of the Education Act (1998), and official and expert recommendations, national and international, in respect of Parents' Associations are realised in the schools officially designated as serving the socio-economically and educationally disadvantaged. The dissertation consists of five chapters.

Chapter One sets the context for the study, provides definitions, describes the DEIS initiative and outlines the Research Questions.

Chapter Two reviews the relevant literature especially that relating to parental involvement in schools, in general, in Irish schools in particular. It considers writings on the statutory functions of Parents' Associations under the Education Act (1998). It attends especially to research, national and international, on parental involvement in Parents' Associations in schools designated as serving the educationally disadvantaged.

Chapter Three describes research methodology in general and outlines the reasons for the choice of the survey, the research method used for the study. By means of a questionnaire to parents, this study surveys their understanding of and their attitudes towards the Parents' Association in their children's schools. Through interviews it also surveys the views of significant stakeholders in the promotion of parental involvement in the study schools.

Chapter Four presents the findings of the study and analyses these findings. The study found that parents and school staff need to be informed regarding the role and function of a Parents' Association especially the relevant provisions of the Education Act (1998) and the pertinent circulars of the Department of Education and Skills.

In Chapter Five, conclusions are identified based on the research results and recommendations made in respect of the operation and future development of the Parents' Associations.