

**Ó Foghlú, Caoimhin S, 2005, *A research into the Ethos and Culture of a Catholic School, in respect of a functional, or dysfunctional, relationship between pupils and school.***

## Abstract

This study concentrates on the area of Catholic School Culture and Ethos. The research was undertaken in a Catholic All-Boys Voluntary Secondary School in Cork city in the Republic of Ireland. The study investigates five core elements of the student experience. These are their experiences relative to Community, Morale, Alienation, their comfort with the Catholic principles that inform school actions and interactions and, finally, their sense of connectedness to their local situation – their school.

The study is conducted in the area of culture and ethos, which combines the models of organisational culture as articulated by Edgar Schein as well as the philosophies which underscore all activities and relationships in the Catholic School. It begins with an Introduction, which introduces all pertinent elements of the study. An extensive Literature Review follows before a consideration of the research methodologies that inform the choices of research instrument and engagement. The results of these instruments are then presented and analysed before the conclusion of the study, with relevant conclusions and recommendations.

The students revealed a very strong sense of community in the school environment. As a teacher in the researched school, the researcher expected such a result and was not surprised at the outcome. They also expressed high levels of morale, which was also expected, as the researcher has consistently experienced the students' sense of comfort in their environment at an anecdotal level.

Overall, the students reflected a school culture, which did confirm many of the underlying philosophies of Catholic education.