

Barrett, Maria, 2006, *Perceptions of Teachers, Pupils and Parents of the Importance of Ritual and Routine in the Catholic Primary School*.

Abstract

This dissertation examines the perceptions of teachers, pupils and parents of the importance of the routines and rituals that prevail in the Catholic primary school. The writer begins by exploring the pivotal role played by routine and ritual in life in society in general. Aspects of societal change from the early Nineteenth Century to the present day are examined, with particular reference to religious practice. As the school community mirrors society at large, the role of routine and ritual in the school setting is also discussed. The topic of ethos in a Catholic school is be probed, leading to a specific discussion on the strong links that exist between ritual and ethos.

The author goes on in Chapter Two to survey some of the literature that is available on the topic of the distinctive nature of the Catholic school. The importance for children of experiencing a sense of belonging in the community of the school and their need for a value system are explored. The links between home, school and parish are examined. In Chapter Three, the rationale behind research in general, and this research in particular, is examined. This is followed in Chapter Four by a presentation and analysis of the survey results. Comparisons are made between the responses of the three groups of participants to the research questions. This leads to an examination of areas of interest that have arisen out of these responses.

The dissertation concludes with an exploration of the findings of the study. Appropriate recommendations are made and areas that warrant further study are identified.