

Bulman, Katherine, 1996, *The changing role of the catholic School in Post-Primary Education in Ireland: A Historical perspective*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This area of research is of particular interest to me as I am a teacher of History in a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School. A fundamental aspect of the humanist tradition is its sense of history with its enriching interaction between the past, the present and the future. The human person and the communities of which each one is a part is in a state of constant historical change. One must, therefore, know the past from which one has come before one can build the future to which one aspires. Indeed, without a sense of the past one can hardly aspire to a different future.

Working in a system on a daily basis is not conducive to reflection and evaluation. The opportunity to pursue a Master's Degree in Education gave me the impetus to reflect on and consider the evolving system of post-primary education in Ireland. Education is in a period of transition and the pace and extent of educational change in recent decades has been remarkable. Thus, there is a need to know the system from a historical perspective, and to understand why it is as it is and the parameters within which change and reform operate.

Researching this dissertation has provided me with an opportunity to know the past, to understand the present and to look to the future.