

Dinan, Elizabeth, 2010, *The Issues and Challenges of In-School Management, Perceptions of Teachers in Irish Second- Level Schools.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This thesis sets out to examine the attitudes of second-level teachers in Ireland towards in-school management. In the rapidly changing educational environment, teachers at middle management level have both a central and crucial role to play in creating efficient schools and in fostering the well-being of the young people in their care.

The research is based on a survey of teachers and principals in a chosen sample consisting of different types of post-primary schools in Ireland.

The replies to the detailed questionnaires and the responses in the course of semi-structured interviews were analysed and considered and placed in the context of educational theory and of developments in Irish schools and in the wider society.

In order to provide a context for the practical research a review of the literature was conducted. The writings of Starratt (2003) and Bottery (2004) were particularly relevant.

The research methods used in this thesis were analysed and justified.

Job satisfaction and sense of personal achievement in posts of responsibility were evident from the findings. There was a strong support for training on effective in-school management. Other key findings in this thesis pointed to the absence and inadequacy of in- service or pre service courses. In effect many respondents felt that the rewards, an increase in salary, were not commensurate with the duties involved.

The final conclusion of this thesis is in effect a call for action in the area of management. When those in in-school management are effectively enabled there are two benefits in one- that is better managed schools and also the preparation of leaders of the future.