

Duffy, Emir, 1998, *Educating Severe and profoundly Mentally Handicapped Children in Ireland: A Study of their Educational Needs and Provision*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

In Chapter 1 the evolution of education for Irish pupils with special needs is described from the historical perspective. This chapter explains how the provision of education in Ireland expanded to include all categories of handicap, including those pupils with severe or profound mental handicap. The various governmental reports and court cases that influenced that expansion are examined chronologically.

Chapter 2 examines how educational provision developed in Great Britain and the United States for similar pupils with special educational needs. This chapter reviews the Irish provision for pupils with severe and profound mental handicap to that available in the British and American systems.

Chapter 3 outlines the methodology used in the empirical study to determine the variety of educational provision available to pupils with severe or profound mental handicap around Ireland.

Chapter 4 analyses the results from the survey and relates those results to similar research conducted in this area in other countries. The results are examined with particular reference to important issues in special education, particularly curriculum and integration.

Chapter 5 examines conclusions available from the survey and their implications for government, principals, teachers and parents. In addition, this chapter makes recommendations on future provision for pupils with severe and profound mental handicap.