

**Duggan, Ita, 1998, *The Role of the Catholic School in Empowering Parents to be the Primary Educators of their children and Partners in the Education Process, with particular reference to the Irish Context***

### **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

The purpose of this dissertation is to consider the role of the Catholic school in empowering parents to be the primary educators of their children and partners in the education process. The method used is an examination of literature and school-based research. This dissertation is presented in five Chapters.

**Chapter 1** outlines the evolution of the Home/School/Community Liaison Scheme in Ireland. It sets out the aims of the scheme with reference to its thrust on three levels, home, community and school. It discusses the Preventative Model in terms of long term investment and the positive effects of such a scheme on the lives of parents when the root causes of their problems are investigated.

**Chapter 2** discusses the role of the Catholic school in Ireland in facilitating the development of parents, in a changed cultural context. It defines what constitutes Catholic education, Catholic schooling and Catholicism. It sets Catholic education within a framework for Christian living and Catholic belief and examines the role of the family and community in this.

**Chapter 3** deals with the role of the Catholic school in facilitating the personal, spiritual and professional development of its teachers so that they can appreciate the Catholic ethos of the school and embrace the concept of parents as partners in the education process.

**Chapter 4** describes the setting up of a group of parents and teachers to work together on a Home-School Policy for St. Vincent's. It outlines the three sessions which took place and the creation of the draft Home-School Policy for St. Vincent's.

**Chapter 5** sets out the design of the questionnaire which was administered to the wider body of parents and teachers. It analyses their responses which will be incorporated into St. Vincent's Home-School Policy.