

Gilbert, Stephen, 2000, *Co-ordinators, Teachers and Pupils: A Study of the Attitudes and Experiences of Transition year In West Cork.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This study is concerned with the quality of Transition Year education in the West Cork region. It attempts to evaluate the quality of education by investigating teacher and coordinator attitudes to the Transition Year and by comparing these with the attitudes and experiences of pupils. This comparison highlights both positive and negative attitudes and indicates where attitudes have not been translated into practice.

In order to improve understanding of this study some background information has been provided. This includes some facts about West Cork as well as a discussion of the various types of schools in the region. The background information is completed by a description of the evolution of Transition Year. This description sets the scene for a review of literature that outlines the theory underpinning Transition Year and suggests how this theory could be put into practice. The main areas discussed are Transition Year mission and aims, organizational structures within Transition Year, curriculum options, teaching methodologies and assessment issues.

The theory of Transition Year is followed by a discussion of research and the tools available to those involved in research. This discussion leads to an explanation for the choice of questionnaires as the primary research tool in this study. The content, piloting and administration of these questionnaires is then outlined.

The information acquired from the questionnaires is presented in graph and tabular form. Discussion and analysis accompany these presentations. Conclusions are drawn based on the analysis of these results and these are used as a basis for recommendations to improve practice and attitudes to Transition Year. Finally, some areas meriting further study are discussed.