

Lehane, Colette, 2009, *Catering for a Changing School Population: A survey of Teacher and Principal/ Deputy Principal Perceptions in the South of Ireland.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

The purpose of this survey is to analyse teachers' and principals/deputy principals' perceptions of catering for a changing school population in four second-level schools in the South of Ireland over the past decade. The research attempts to investigate teachers' and principals/deputy principals' perceptions of the challenges of teaching in an increasingly diverse school environment.

Chapter One outlines the main aims of the research, followed by a description of the schools. The remainder of this Chapter is concerned with the current societal and educational legislative context in which schools operate in Ireland.

Chapter Two presents a review of the literature with emphasis on diversity in second-level schools in the context of societal, legislative and educational change and reform. The following section discusses how the promotion of equality and inclusion, managing change and diversity has become dominant challenges for schools at all levels.

Chapter Three outlines various research methods and pinpoints the questionnaire as being the most suitable method for this particular research. A questionnaire was distributed to teachers and principals/deputy principals. All respondents were asked similar questions, thus ascertaining their perceptions.

Chapter Four analyses the findings of the research under key headings which are based on the twenty-nine research questions in the questionnaire. These are included in the list of figures on p vii. Chapter Five outlines the conclusions of the survey and proposes a number of recommendations for future research.