

Leo, Daniel, 1998, *The preparation and in-career development of Primary School Principals in Ireland*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This study establishes the preparation needs of newly appointed principals and examines how these needs might be met.

Chapter 1: looks at the nature and role of primary school principalship. It explores some of the literature on leadership, and takes a brief look at the professional associations open to principals in Ireland to see how they support and contribute to the professional development of primary principals.

Chapter 2: explores the nature of professional development of principals within the whole/school staff development context. The writer then looks at the NPQH, Reflective Practice and Problem Based Learning as a means of principal preparation. The part played by Headlamp, mentoring and principal associations in supporting principals is examined, Educational Administration courses are briefly discussed.

Chapter 3: discusses the preparation and presentation of the research instruments used to determine new principals' perception of the ideal preparation for principalship and their perception of preparation as it is now.

Chapter 4: Analysis and discussion of findings of questionnaires and interviews are presented here, together with a summary.

Chapter 5: makes recommendations concerning principal preparation and the inservice available to newly appointed principals in Ireland. Five aspects of principalship are highlighted for further investigation.