

Lowney, Kathleen, 2008, *The Importance of Appropriate Continuous Professional Development in ICT Education: A Study of Perceptions and Practices of Teachers in County Cork Schools.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This dissertation is set in an era of ever increasing change and against a backdrop of a desire by educationalists to respond appropriately to that change. Dire warnings are frequently issued by proponents of curriculum innovation that we must manage change or it will manage us.

There is no doubt that children are surrounded by technology in the home from birth and that this shapes the way in which they learn. In fact, technology is not only a teaching and learning tool but it has changed the very nature of learning and in particular, what it means to be literate.

A new concept, that of digital literacy, has entered the consciousness of educators. The challenge to teachers and schools is to respond to this in an appropriate manner. Ongoing research is essential as technology has become deeply embedded in our lives.

The purpose of this current research is to study the perceptions and practices of teachers in the use of ICT in county Cork classrooms with a view to designing appropriate and relevant continuous professional development to meet the needs of teachers in the catchment area of the West Cork Education Centre over the next number of years.