

**Mallon, Brendan, 2002, *Pastoral Care: A Survey of Second Level Schools in the South of Ireland.***

### **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

This dissertation has three main objectives. Firstly, in defining education it will explore and articulate what pastoral care in education seeks to achieve. A key part of this process will be a critical analysis of the literature on pastoral care, chronologically reviewing its historical development in schools, while simultaneously differentiating between 'formal' and 'informal' pastoral care.

Secondly, the present reality of pastoral care will be examined in three different types of secondary schools in Ireland. Thirdly, to show that pastoral care is a natural component of education that makes a significant contribution in fostering a holistic development of the student.

This investigation will take place in three urban second-level schools geographically located in the Munster region. It is hoped that this research will generate much reflection, debate and a deeper understanding of pastoral care and how it enhances the life of a school and the quality of relationships within that learning environment.