

McGrath, Catriona, 2002, *The Community School: The Ideal and The Reality. A Critical Study.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This dissertation examines the Community School model of education and how the founding ideals are being realised. Moreover, it examines how suitable this model is to meet future educational needs, justly, efficiently and equitably in society today. One can best appreciate the significance of this comprehensive model by considering the rationale, origin and aspirations of this model of post-primary education, set against the international background. Against that background, the new unified post-primary education was studied.

The research survey is a national survey of Principals in Community Schools and a local survey representing different stakeholders in the Community School system. All aspects of the Community School are examined as outlined in the document *Community School* and the Deeds of Trust. It is significant that schools in this study are providing actual equality of educational opportunity and are engaged in responding to social change and new needs, thus having the adaptability and flexibility to respond to the changing pupil clientele.

Findings and recommendations in this study, it is hoped, may influence school authorities as they debate and decide on their future model of school, in this present era of school rationalisation in Ireland. The literature reviewed and the information cited has covered the period up to 1 July 2002.