

**Murray, Maura, 1995, School-based Staff Development: Paving the way for change in second level schools in Ireland**

### **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

My interest in school-based staff development as a means of paving the way for change in second level schools in Ireland arises from the fact that over the past thirty five years I have taught in fourteen second level schools. Each one of these had its unique culture; each one was distinctly different; each one had its strengths and weaknesses but, nevertheless, they had at least one common factor: they all provided in varying degrees a wide range of learning experiences for teachers and students. The majority of second level schools in Ireland are directly answerable at present to the Department of Education. A number of schools encounter an intermediate layer of bureaucracy in the form of County, Town and City Vocational Education Committees.

The National In-Career Development Unit has been established in the Department of Education to develop and formulate a comprehensive policy on in-career education for teachers ... set national priorities and guidelines for local initiatives liaise with and advise education centres, university departments, colleges of education and other agencies on the in-career professional development of teachers (White Paper, p.131).

The formulation of proposals in the White Paper into legislative bills which will be discussed and legislated upon by both Houses of the Oireachtas (Parliament) is the next stage in the implementation of proposed change in our education system. Legislation will, of course, take some time.

In the intervening period schools, building on their individual strengths in preparation for the implementation of a variety of changes which will lead us into the twenty first century, are paving the way for this resultant change.