

O'Callaghan, Nora, 1995, *Founded for the Future – The Educational Theories of PH Pearse*.

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

In my preface, I trace how my interest in Patrick Pearse began and developed and I also state the aims of my dissertation. In Chapter One, I follow the major influences on Pearse in his early life, beginning with the influence of his home, his school and later his involvement in the Gaelic League.

In Chapter Two, I examine Irish Education at the turn of the Twentieth Century, and reflect on Pearse's condemnation of it. Pearse condemned the education system of his time in two major ways. He felt it lacked freedom and inspiration. From these twin concepts, he fashioned his own educational theories.

In Chapter Three, I examine these theories and note their similarity with American and European educational theories of the time.

In Chapter Four, I examine the application of Pearse's theories in the school he opened at Cullenswood House in 1908. This school he named after St Enda of the Aran Islands. Again I make a comparison between Pearse's school and other reforming schools of his time.

In my concluding chapter, I examine proposed modern Irish education reforms in the light of Pearse's theories and my own teaching experiences. I show how the adoption of Pearse's ideas would improve modern Irish education, making it more humanising, more enlightening and more stimulating to the many young people whose lives it touches, in many different ways.