

**O'Neill, Aileen, 2008, *Teachers' Perceptions of the Values Contributing to Ethos in Amalgamated Schools***

## **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

The purpose of this study is to determine, in three amalgamated schools, teachers' and chaplains' perceptions of ethos and the values that influence ethos. This study also strives to explore what influences these values have, in guiding the daily life of such schools. Ethos can be defined as the characteristic spirit of the school which develops over time through continuing interaction between various factors within the school community.

Three rural postprimary schools participated in this study. The three schools have been amalgamated for one, five and eleven years respectively. Chapter one outlines the contextual framework for the study. This includes a brief historical background and description of the three amalgamated schools. An extensive Literature Review follows in chapter two with an emphasis on ethos and the factors that influence school ethos.

Chapter three reviews various research methodologies and identifies the questionnaire and interview as being the most suitable for this study. The formulated questionnaire was administered randomly to teachers in the three schools. Three Chaplains, one from each of the amalgamated schools, were interviewed. The results were collated, analysed and presented in chapter four.

The findings of the teachers and Chaplains underscored those from the literature review. The respondents were of the opinion that some factors were of more value than others.

Finally, chapter five presents the conclusions and appropriate recommendations based on the findings.