

O'Sullivan, James, 2005, *Exploring the Motivation, Selection and Satisfaction in the Transition Year Programme: A Case Study.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

There is a continuous debate regarding the value of a particular innovation in the Irish school curriculum, the Transition Year Programme. Much of the debate surrounds the fact that schools adopting the programme may do so on a compulsory or optional basis. The hub of this study centres on the latter. To this end, a case study of a local authority school will be presented with a view to exploring students' motivational factors opting for participation in the programme, examining the selection process employed by the school and determining students' satisfaction levels regarding the delivery and content of the programme.

This writer set out to examine the reasons why the Transition Year Programme was introduced to the curriculum and to trace developments within the programme since its inception. The literature survey outlines significant influences on programme content with specific reference to assessment, certification and *curriculum* overload. The data elicited are collated and presented along with a detailed analysis of the findings of the survey.

Finally, bearing in mind the limitations of this small- scale study, conclusions and recommendations are proffered aimed at improving the Transition Year Programme.