

O'Sullivan, Roisin, 2000, *Towards Inclusive Schooling: The Integration of Deaf Children into a Mainstream School*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

In Chapter 1 the author deals extensively with the origins and development of a segregated education system for the deaf as it has existed. Particular focus is given to the growth and shifts that have occurred in attitude and teaching styles in relation to the deaf within education systems.

Chapter 2 examines the current trends and practices within the area of integration with particular focus on the current philosophy of 'inclusion'. Key factors considered essential by contemporary educationalists in a move towards inclusive schooling and facilitating the integration of the deaf into a mainstream school are identified and discussed.

Chapter 3 outlines the nature and importance of action research as a particular method of investigation within this research. Details of the methods used for collecting the relevant information in relation to how the school under study facilitated the integration of the deaf is given.

Chapter 4 describes and evaluates how and why the school implemented its action plan for integration. Particular attention is given to the outcomes in levels and quality of communication, social integration, academic integration and emotional development of the nine deaf pupils with their non-deaf peers within the mainstream setting.

Chapter 5 concludes with a discussion on the recommendations deemed necessary by the author for this school in further planning its facilitation process.