

O'Toole, Noel, 2014, *Good practice in the Transition of pupils from Primary to Post-Primary in Three Schools in the Cork area of Ireland*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This research examines the transition of pupils from primary to post-primary education in a selection of three schools in the Republic of Ireland. In a time of great change for pupils both in the context of personal developmental as well as schooling experience, a successful transition period is seen as vital.

The research is based on the examination of the policies and procedures of the aforementioned schools. The principal of one school was interviewed along with a sixth-class teacher. Pupils of the first year cohort were surveyed by means of a questionnaire. Discussion forums were held with a selection of pupils from both first year and sixth class. The results were analysed and compared to best practice set out in existing studies such as O' Brien (2001) and Smyth et al., (2004).

Analysis of the procedures in place within the schools identified both strengths and areas for improvement. The opinion of the student was vital for the success of the research and as a result the questionnaire focused on school structures while the discussion forums allowed for personal expression of experiences.

The transitioning period can be one of anxiety for many pupils. This anxiety can be greatly reduced by schools paying attention to a number of procedures identified through the research. A collective staff approach to agreed transition procedures is seen to be the most efficient means of guiding pupils through the transition period. Recommendations and areas for possible further studies are identified in the conclusions of the research.