

Ryan, Bernadette, 2003, *The Factors Affecting Mathematical Achievement in Primary School Pupils.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This dissertation deals with the factors affecting mathematical achievement in primary school pupils. It arises from the interests and the experience of the writer in the subject of Mathematics and also from the need to acknowledge the child as central in the teaching and learning process.

The literature review was concerned with documentation and reports available on the subject with particular reference to Irish reports and the factors affecting mathematical achievement in Irish primary school pupils. The five factors coming to the fore are namely: school, environmental, physiological, cognitive and affective factors.

Chapter Three of the dissertation looked at research methods. It outlined the rationale for using the selected research method. The case study was deemed to be the most suitable research method for the present dissertation.

Chapter Four of the dissertation gave results of the work undertaken and a discussion of the findings took place. Field notes and observations of the pupils as well as semi-structured interviews with parents and teachers occurred. Two factors are significant in affecting mathematical achievement. These are: the school and the environment. However, the writer acknowledges that all factors affecting mathematical achievement are inextricably linked and need to be so viewed. A sample of the field notes is included in the appendices.

In the final chapter conclusions were given in relation to the dissertation, as well as recommendations and ideas for further research.