

Sexton, Marie, 1996, *Effective Middle management in Irish Voluntary Secondary Schools*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

The purpose of this study was to attempt to evaluate the effectiveness or otherwise, of the current Middle Management structure in lush voluntary secondary schools. Chapter One outlines the background to the study and highlights some of the areas to be looked at in subsequent chapters.

Chapter Two looks at the enabling role of the Senior Management Team and concludes that the principal is the lynchpin of the school organisation and the successful empowering of staff depends, ultimately, on the leadership and people management skills of the principal. Chapter Three examines some of the roles and functions of middle managers in curriculum and pastoral care, functions familiar in the United Kingdom but not in Irish voluntary secondary schools. Chapter Four involves research on current structures of posts of responsibility in Irish voluntary secondary schools. Data were gathered from questionnaires distributed to post-holders and were then analysed.

Chapter 5 concludes that the current system of middle management in Irish voluntary secondary schools is inefficient and does not generate any enthusiasm from staff, and the workload of the principals in Irish voluntary secondary schools is onerous because of the lack of an efficient middle management structure.