

Stack, Kathleen, 2007, *Behaviour Management in Catholic Second Level Schools: Perceptions of Students. A Case Study.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

Recent economic changes in Ireland have dramatically influenced schools. Moreover, the decline in the number of religious principals and teachers in schools has meant that the obvious representation of the Catholic Church in schools has disappeared. In education, the recent Education Acts (1998, 2000, 2004) have also influenced the ways schools operate.

Within this context of change the writer chose to consider the way we choose to manage student behaviour in schools and the influence of Catholicism on this. The writer wished to identify that which is intrinsically different about Catholic schools in Ireland. What was insightful was the finding that students do not appear to have models of education that are not Catholic in rural Ireland at least. Therefore, it is difficult to explore the differences between Catholic and non-religious schools in Ireland. Instead, the study examines the nature of the relationships within schools between teachers and students, according to students.

The model of Catholic education and behaviour management proposed is that of *magister et discipulus*, where the Christocentric nature of Catholic schools is obvious to students through the relationships experienced in schools.