

Tatton, Peter, MEd, 2012, *An Investigation into the Perceptions held by Teachers and Parents of Parental Involvement in Disadvantaged Schools in the North Cork City Area*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This study aimed to investigate the perceptions of teachers and parents of parental involvement in a designated disadvantaged school in Cork City. Questionnaires were distributed and semi-structured interviews conducted in order to access the participants' attitudes, knowledge and experience regarding parental involvement.

The participants comprise thirty nine teachers working in a disadvantaged primary school and thirty one parents all of whom have children enrolled in disadvantaged schools in the North Cork City area. Teachers in this study highlighted the importance of parental involvement. Teachers discussed the different strategies which they used to maintain parent-teacher communications and also discussed the initiatives in place to encourage parental involvement.

The main initiative in this school to support parents in their children's learning was the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) scheme. The findings of this study demonstrate that parent and teacher perceptions of the meaning and function of parental involvement are different but at times may include overlapping elements.