

Provided by the author(s) and University of Galway in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite the published version when available.

Title	Second Level Teachers and Educational Change: An Investigation into Teachers' Responses to the Introduction and Implementation of Cooperative Learning
Author(s)	Chambers, Francis
Publication Date	2013-09-27
Item record	http://hdl.handle.net/10379/4270

Downloaded 2023-09-28T04:17:15Z

Some rights reserved. For more information, please see the item record link above.



Second Level Teachers and Educational Change: An Investigation into Teachers' Responses to the Introduction and Implementation of Cooperative Learning

Francis Chambers

Supervisors: Dr. Chris Curtin and Dr. Mary Fleming

School of Education

Submitted to the National University of Ireland, Galway
September 2013

This dissertation is submitted to the National University of Ireland, Galway, in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of PhD.

Table of Contents

Chapter One - Introduction	1
The Research Question and the Problem	3
The Initiative	6
Research Methodology	19
Piloting the Change Initiative	
Chapter Progression	
Conclusion	
Chapter Two – Literature Review	41
Educational Change Theory	43
The Teacher	
Professional Development	
Conclusion	
Chapter Three – Context & Cooperative Learning	95
The Context	95
Workshops	
Cooperative Learning – Introduction	
Conclusion	
Chapter Four – The Findings	128
Phase One	130
Phase Two	
Phase Three	
Conclusion	
Chapter Five – Discussion and Conclusion	170
The Nature of the Programme	172
The Introduction Phase	173
Teachers' Perceptions	177
External Influences	188
Conclusion	192
Bibliography	206
Appendices	225

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mary Fleming and Chris Curtin for all their assistance in the writing of this thesis. Their support and dedication were of tremendous help to me as were their skills, insights and advice throughout the study.

To my wife Josie and my daughter Bláthnaid - you never complained although you had good reason! Thank you so much for all your support throughout this project.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank the staff and students of Fairhill Community School for assisting me in this research study. Without their cooperation, opinions, thoughts and feeling this work would not have been possible. It has been a fantastic experience working with such wonderful people in such a brilliant school.

Glossary of Acronyms

ADHD	.Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
CSPE	Civic Social and Political Education
ETB	Education and Training Board
NCCA	.National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
PLC	Professional Learning Community
SEN	Special Educational Needs
VEC	Vocational Education Committee
WSF	Whole School Evaluation

Abstract

Successful educational change at school level is difficult to achieve; however it is imperative that schools engage in change practices if they are to enhance the learning experiences and academic achievements of their students.

This thesis investigates teacher's responses to educational change both to understand the significance of this role within the change milieu and also to develop protocols that could influence successful change outcomes at local level.

It concludes that if the professional and moral obligations of the teachers are recognised, the operational basis is accessible to teachers and a space is created for authentic discussion to take place, then successful change is possible at local school level.