



Education & Training

RESEARCH BRIEFING

ISSN 1366-803X

RB 1/2009

May 2009

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDED RESEARCH 2008/09

1. This Research Briefing provides information on projects in progress at the end of 2008/09 funded by the Department of Education. Details of projects published during 2007/08 are also provided.
2. The purpose of this Briefing is to provide clear and succinct summaries of the research projects funded by the Department of Education to ensure that policy makers and administrators in the education services, teachers, academics and other interested parties are aware of research both in progress and recently completed.
3. The findings of research commissioned by the Department of Education are disseminated:-
 - a. Through the publication of research reports as part of the Department of Education Research Report Series.
 - b. Through publication of summaries of the findings of projects as part of the Department of Education Research Briefing Series.

4. Please note that the dates given for uncompleted projects refer to when the draft final report is due to be received by the Department of Education. Projects can be affected by delays. Actual publication of reports should occur within 3 months of the draft final report being received.
5. Department of Education research publications may be obtained from the Department of Education website at http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/32-statisticsandresearch_pg.htm. Alternatively contact Statistics and Research Branch at the address on the back of this Briefing.

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SECTION A: PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AT END OF 2008/09

1. Project Title: SPECIAL NEEDS OF BILINGUAL (IRISH-ENGLISH) CHILDREN

Research Body: POBAL

Start Date: December 2005 Cost: £130,199

Final Report: February 2009

Brief Description of Project

This research project will look at the totality of special educational and health needs for bilingual (Irish-English) children from birth to the age of 18. It will produce a comprehensive overview of the current provision and identify priorities in the way forward. The findings from the research project will help inform future policy for the increasing numbers of children who are being raised and/or educated bilingually.

2. Project Title: LONGITUDINAL RESEARCH WITH YOUNG MEN IN SCHOOLS

Research Body: University of Ulster

Start Date: July 2006 Cost: £66,773 (part-funding)

Final Report: Due 2011

Brief Description of Project

This project aims to track the lives of young males in post primary Catholic, Protestant and Integrated schools. The research will investigate mental, emotional and physical wellbeing and the area of academic underachievement amongst young males.

3. Project Title: PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT (PISA) 2009

Research Body: National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)

Start Date: March 2007 Cost: £375,000 (NI Study)

Final Report: Due December 2010

Brief Description of Project

This study forms part of an international exercise to produce student outcome indicators in reading, maths and science on a regular basis. It follows a similar study in 2006. The age group is 15-16 year olds. The main focus of PISA 2009 is on reading. The study is being carried out using standardised methodology to give internationally comparable results.

4. Project Title: PRE-SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AND EFFECT ON EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES AT KEY STAGE 2

Research Body: Birkbeck College, University of London

Start Date: March 2009 Cost: £35,000

Final Report: Due December 2009

Brief Description of Project

The Effective Pre-school Provision Northern Ireland (EPPNI) research was designed to enable the linking of three sets of data: information about children's attainment and development, information about children's personal, social and family characteristics, and information about pre-school experience. This research project aims to link with children's Key Stage 2 scores. The extent to which it is possible to explain (statistically) the variation in children's Key Stage 2 scores will provide evidence about whether particular forms of pre-school provision have greater benefits in promoting educational achievement by the end of the primary school.

5. Project Title: COUNSELLING AND WIDER THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS IN PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Research Body: PWC

Start Date November 2008 Cost: £30,855

Final Report: March 2009

Brief Description of Project

This is an audit of primary and special schools. The aims are (1) to determine the nature and level of need in relation to the emotional health and well-being of pupils and (2) to identify any related services or initiatives currently being implemented in those schools.

SECTION B: PROJECTS PUBLISHED DURING 2007/08

1. Project Title: ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROVISION (AEP)

Research Body: Queen's University, Belfast

Start Date: April 2003 Cost: £73,042 (part funding)

Final Report: Published April 2007

Brief Description of Project

This project examined the AEP experience of young people in terms of effective engagement with learning, re-integration into mainstream provision, accreditation achievement and transition to the labour market with a view to assessing the effectiveness of this means of intervention and helping guide further planning of provision in each of the three types of AEP.

2. Project Title: THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF BULLYING IN SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND

Research Body: University of Ulster

Start Date: August 2005 Cost: £76,231

Final Report: Published June 2007

Brief Description of Project

This research establishes the scale and nature of bullying behaviour by pupils in schools including analysis by pupils' characteristics such as gender. It draws comparisons with the pupils' behaviour section of the previous research published by the Department of Education in October 2002.

3. Project Title: PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT (PISA) 2006

Research Body: National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)

Start Date: January 2005 Cost: £147,647 (NI Study)

Final Report: Published December 2007

Brief Description of Project

This study forms part of an international exercise to produce student outcome indicators in reading, maths and science on a regular basis. It follows a similar study in 2003. The age group is 15-16 year olds. The main focus of PISA 2006 was on science. The study was carried out using standardised methodology to give internationally comparable results.

4. Project Title: AN INVESTIGATION OF INFORMAL APPROACHES TO LEARNING IN FORMAL SETTINGS

Research Body: University Of Ulster

Start Date: February 2006 Cost: £19,973

Final Report: Published February 2008

Brief Description of Project

The fundamental focus of this research was on the interface between informal learning and formal settings. The aims of the project were to seek clarification regarding the outcomes of youth work in schools, assess the delivery mechanism for informal education, and to understand the curriculum around informal education for marginalized/disaffected young people in formal settings.

5. **Project Title:** **E-CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS: A PILOT STUDY**
Research Body: NFER at Queen's University, Belfast
Start Date: February 2006 Cost: £8,000 (part-funding)
Final Report: Published February 2008

Brief Description of Project

The aim of this project was to pilot a range of methods for e-consultation with young people with a view to providing an evidence base for the development of an effective e-consultation strategy for DE and other educational policy makers.

6. **Project Title:** **LITERACY AND NUMERACY OF PUPILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**
Research Body: PWC
Start Date: March 2007 Cost: £39,232
Final Report: Published February 2008

Brief Description of Project

The aims of this research were to consider the outcomes in literacy and numeracy at school-level, explore the international literature on boys' underachievement and examine the differences between high and low performing schools.

7. **Project Title:** **GOOD PRACTICE IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY IN BRITISH AND IRISH CITIES**
Research Body: PWC
Start Date: March 2007 Cost: £35,519
Final Report: Published February 2008

Brief Description of Project

The aim of this research was to inform the Department of Education about measures which are working successfully in delivering better literacy and numeracy outcomes in comparator cities elsewhere in Britain and Ireland.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESEARCH BRIEFINGS (2000 TO DATE)

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PURPOSE OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESEARCH BRIEFINGS

The Department of Education (DE) places a high value on the wide circulation of research results to ensure that research has the maximum impact on policy and practice in education. DE Research Briefings are designed to provide attractive, interesting and easy access to research findings for policy makers, researchers, teachers, lecturers, employers and the public to facilitate informed discussion of education issues. Research cannot make decisions for policy makers and others concerned with improving the quality of education. Nor can it by itself bring about change. But it can create a better basis for decisions, by providing information and explanation about educational practice and by clarifying and challenging ideas and assumptions.

The full range of DE Research Briefings can be accessed at the DE Internet site - www.deni.gov.uk/index/32-statisticsandresearch_pg.htm

DE Research Briefings may be photocopied for use within your own institution.

If you have difficulty getting access to DE Research on the DE website please contact us at:

Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR
Co Down
BT19 7PR

Telephone: 028 9127 9401

Fax: 028 9127 9594

e-mail: statistics@deni.gov.uk

**Edited and produced by Statistics and Research Branch,
Department of Education**