An exploration of the strategies needed to achieve a self-improving school system

Michalis Constantinides  mc586@leicester.ac.uk

The focus of this research is on how school leaders conceptualise their ideas about leadership and how they contextualise their views to promote school led improvement.

Through this research, I aim to gain insight and understand how school leaders enact their leadership in order to promote a school self-improving system through School Alliances.

It can be defined as a system where resources, activities, responsibilities and accountability for improvement shift from a central service or authority to the community of schools (Gilbert, 2012).

That is to say resources are transferred to schools themselves in order to sustain their own improvement and improvement in other schools.

This thesis will attempt to methodologically and empirically contribute to the area of school self-improvement and educational leadership.

The outcomes of this research will seek to shed further exploratory light on the way leaders lead school self-improvement.

References

Methodology
Focusing on a Teaching School Alliance in Manchester, UK, the case study approach is considered appropriate for the exploratory phase of my investigation as well as for the nature of my research questions.

The multiple cases of leadership for school self-improvement will be based on the enactment of leadership and will incorporate ethnographic strategies and elements.

I intend to combine ‘shadowing’, participant observation and in-depth interviews as methods for data collection.

I will adopt an inductive mode of analysis for my findings.

I aspire to build up an analytic system of codes and categories using thematic analysis with the assistance of NVivo 11 software.

Implications
• The research is being carried out with the aim of developing implications for leadership policy and practice in self-improving school systems.
• Leadership of a particular kind is needed for effective self school improvement and therefore provision for professional development for leaders in self-improving systems is needed.