

National Policy in the Rural Place: Nurturing Leadership in Rural Schools

Wednesday 4 August 2021 - Parallel Session 3 - 11.30am to 12.30pm (GMT+1)

MURRAY - Preparing Teachers for Rural Schools

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Rural Scotland accounts for 98% of the land mass of Scotland and 17% of the population are resident there. Scottish Government acknowledged in 2015 that education policy can have a particular impact on rural communities. A recent systematic review (Paterson, 2018) demonstrated that there is very little current research in policy in rural schools/education in Scotland. This presentation will explore the context of current policy and implementation through a research study being undertaken by an EdD student. Central to policy implementation in the rural context is the role of teachers. The presentation will explore and discuss the proposed research work being undertaken for small rural primary schools with a roll of under thirty pupils. Data will be collected through semi-structured interviews with national policy makers, teachers, head teachers, and school communities through an ethnographic methodology. The data will be analysed to establish themes related to equity and excellence policy in rural schools. The researcher will also spend time within one of the primary schools to inform a study of the normal daily life of a rural school and the important of the place. The researcher has considerable experience of being a rural policy maker and will include an auto ethnographic piece of work. Data collected will provide insight to the current development of national policy in the rural place themed as: policy-explanation, policy-framing and policy-forming (Adams, 2016). The outcomes of this research project will inform current and future rural education policy at local level and national level.