

## Foreword

For many years now NATSE has made an important and distinctive contribution to the development of special education in Ireland. Largely through lectures, seminars and workshops it has striven to provide members with a meeting ground, to facilitate the dissemination of ideas, and to afford teachers the opportunity to enlarge their skills. I know that over the years many of those who invested most generously in the Association have felt keenly the need for a journal to complement these activities. The birth of REACH will thus be a cause of joy to very many people.

This is not the place for a treatise on teacher-writing but it is appropriate here to emphasize its vital importance. For people engaged in special education REACH should provide a suitable outlet and an interested readership. The value of some very good work in our schools is circumscribed because it is not shared with a wider audience; by the same token many good ideas are not honed sufficiently because they are not put in a considered, written format and hence do not evoke a correspondingly considered response. I would also like to think that, in keeping with current trends, REACH will find a healthy proportion of both readers and subscribers outside the traditional boundaries of special education.

Launching a new journal is a brave venture, a statement of optimism. Without optimism special education would never have begun; it depends on it no less for its continued development. The editors deserve our congratulations and our thanks at this point and our sustained and practical support in the time ahead.

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