Abstract:
This research paper is an investigation into the auditory health awareness that is provided by the Irish primary and secondary education curricula. The hypothesis of this paper is that the Irish primary and secondary education systems do not sufficiently educate students in relation to auditory health. The effects of noise exposure, including noise induced hearing loss and other psychological and physiological effects are presented. The risks and exposure levels of occupational and recreational sources such as mp3 players and concerts are analysed. Exposure from recreational sources is an often overlooked source of risk.

In light of the risks of excessive exposure, the current content regarding auditory health awareness in Irish primary and secondary education is explored as well as the efficacy of the content. The results of a survey are presented. This survey involved 67 participants who had all attended either Irish primary or secondary schools. The survey questioned the participants on their music/noise exposure, their use of hearing protection and their awareness of risk. It was found that the majority of participants exposed themselves to excessive levels of noise from recreational sources. The hypothesis of this research paper was confirmed, the Irish primary and secondary education systems do not sufficiently educate students to protect themselves from noise and music exposure.