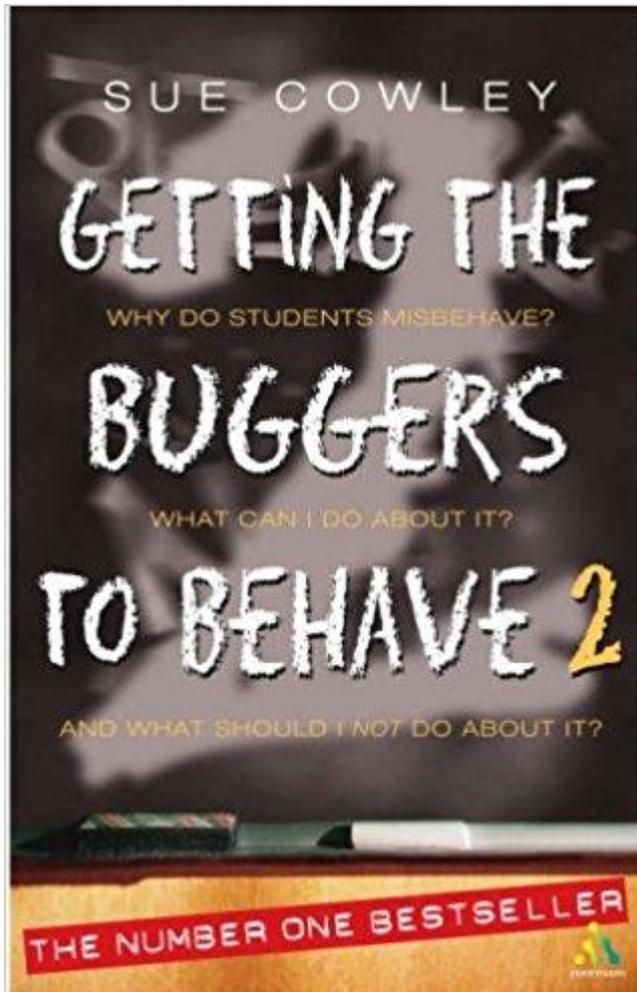


Book title: Getting The Buggers to Behave 2

Author: Sue Cowley

Publication date: 2005



The review

1) What is your overall impression of the book?

Getting Buggers to Behave 2 is a very easy to read guidebook on behaviour management in the classroom. You can just pick it up and find the chapter corresponding to your problem. Sue Cowley offers reasoning for pupil's behaviour with potential strategies and advice inspired from reflecting on her vast experience in classroom behaviour.

While it doesn't offer anything truly unique regarding ideas or theories on behaviour management, this is not a negative for the many that require a more condensed bible on behaviour management. It pushes for positive student-teacher relationships and to use these ideas to inform, and to inspire educators to find their own unique system that works for their individual styles, playing to their strengths.

2. Who do you think would benefit most from reading the book? What will they learn?

This book will resonate across the people who work in education. Many of my peers have used ideas and advice from this book in their classrooms, already to good effect. While dipping into this book once a while to revisit behaviour management strategies could benefit more experienced staff, the basic, but not simplistic approach suits more junior educators. One can imagine as you progress as a teacher these ideas will become embedded in your teaching style if tackled early.

The ideas and plans offered in this concise survival guide for behaviour in the classroom. This second edition has additional chapters on differentiated techniques for primary and secondary schools including discussing the transition which is pertinent for staff working with pupils bridging that gap. Helping them to understand where the pupils have come from or what to prepare them for.

3. What did you think about the quality of the writing? Please consider the tone, structure and ideas. Does it suit the audience?

I found the writing to be engaging, informative and quite fun. Her book is aimed at those who are looking for advice on behaviour management that is easily accessible and equally easy to apply. With this audience in mind the book does indeed do all of those things. Sue Cowley writes this book in a relaxed yet focused style, her assertive structure engaging the reader. She uses her experience in classrooms to examine role plays in the book which help to underpin positive behaviour management.

The style in which the book is written allows for the casual reader to find the chapter pertinent to them. The clear and logical naming of each of the chapters allows for quick accessibility. Yet read in the more traditional sense the parts of the book follow on from one another logically. Each topic while not greatly in depth covers pertinent problems, dealt with by offering advice and practical ideas.

4. Please discuss the research used to underpin the ideas. What evidence does the author use? Is it robust and up-to-date?

The scenarios, theories and 'solutions' in this book all draw on Sue Cowley's career in education with a specialism in behaviour management. She quotes "the ideas and advice given are based on common sense, observations and strategies that have worked for me." Interviews with pupils were used to inform the author of the current attitudes, thoughts and feelings of pupils today. This indicates that the material is up-to-date and relevant. She doesn't propose any radically new ideas drawing on observational and personal experience meaning minimal referencing. Referring to the 'common sense' approach she implements makes it hard to find problems with it when taken as guidance.

There are no formal references in the book, merely acknowledgements to Anthony Haynes and Alexandra Webster at Continuum, the girls at October club (advice and support), and thanks to Tilak Castellino. Thanks to 21 pupils for interviews and to teachers who have inspired and helped her in her teaching career.

5. What did you learn from reading the book? What ideas/approaches/practice will you change or adopt as a result of reading this book?

This book has made me appreciate once again that there is so much to learn and apply to be a successful teacher. The advice on finding and adapting your own style made me reflect on how I approach my lesson planning and the lessons themselves. To find what form of teaching is comfortable for me allowing me to concentrate on achieving the learning.

It discusses rewards and sanctions which I am looking forwards to trying out in future lessons. This is an area which I am not currently consistent.

6. Could you share a quote from the book that particularly resonated with you?

“By having a positive approach, you will retain your sense of humour and your sense of perspective. If you can achieve this, you are less likely to get stressed when things do go wrong.”

Reviewed by Paul Windross