

**Book title:** Getting the Buggers to Behave

**Author:** Sue Cowley

**Publication date:** 2014

### **1. What is your overall impression of the book?**

I read the book when first began my PGCE and wanted to look for some advice on behaviour management as I was training in a tough school. The advice ranges from the basics of behaviour management to 'how to deal with the class from hell' and is applicable whether you are working in the early years, primary, secondary or further education with level specific examples in every chapter. The book covers preparing for your first meeting with a new group of students, developing your individual teaching style, creating a positive learning environment and working in really challenging schools. Sue gives very practical, honest and realistic advice, and all her ideas include case studies and anecdotes based on her years of experience working as a teacher and the stories and problems she has advised on 'agony aunt' style, for teachers of all levels.

I bought a brand new edition because in it Sue takes a detailed look at the use of incentives for managing behaviour, how to implement a restorative justice approach in order to change children's behaviour and also identifies the ten most common forms of misbehaviour and how to deal with them.

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

This book is suitable for trainees and NQTs alike.

Sue's book gives a clear, concise and comprehensive guide to creating the conditions for learning that teachers and pupils need to succeed. I would recommend this book to everyone entering the teaching profession, the guidance it offers will enable you to become the very best teacher you can be.

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

This is a very accessible book where it is not difficult to digest as the tone is lighthearted and the content is very funny making the reading experience very enjoyable:

"Show the students the can of dog food, open it up and then eat from it. Offer it round the class to see if anyone else will have a taste..." This is just an example of the style of writing in the book.

Each section is broken down into manageable sections. You can pick and choose the sections you want to focus on.

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

Sue Cowley has worked with literally thousands of people in the world of education. Through all these experiences she picked up loads more great ideas about how to manage behaviour. This is seen as she has gained an insight into what works in different settings, with different young people, and for different kinds of staff. The basic tenets of this book remain faithful to the original. The original has been adapted and developed the ideas so that they apply to more practitioners, in more diverse situations: to those working in early years and further education, as well as primary and secondary schools. Additionally, for those of us working in the most challenging schools or colleges, she has included a new section on coping in really difficult circumstances. She has also taken advantage of new developments in the world of technology so there's a companion website offering you extra material, links and ideas.

**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?**

I have found this book to be very useful and written in an enjoyable and engaging way. I can relate to a lot of this and it certainly made me think about situations I had been in as a TA, now finished and proved very useful already. You could call this a teacher training textbook, which is basically full of sensible advice about managing children of differing levels of ability in the classroom. Useful background information, some of which is directly applicable to other areas of professional life too. The way the book is set out helps to manage your own development as a teacher.

One slight criticism is that I would have liked more advice on SEND pupil management as this can be a very difficult issue to deal with in the classroom.

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

"With a well behaved class teaching is the most wonderful job in the world" Cowley, Sue 2014

This resonated with me because this, in a nutshell, is why I wanted to become a teacher. I always thought it was 'the most wonderful job in the world' and this book helped me to see how it can be that.