

2006.013 BOOK REVIEW

***Dos and Don'ts of Behaviour Management* by Roger Dunn (Continuum International Publishing Group, London, 2005) ISBN 0-8264-8464-6 (paperback). Pp. 147 + vi.**

How does one become a very good teacher at primary or secondary level? In much the same way, says Roger Dunn, that one becomes very good at any vocational or professional task. By attaining mastery of one's subject (you can't teach what you don't know). By meticulous preparation whenever you enter on the scene (you can't be assured if you're another Ethelred the Unready). By facing the enemy and looking them in the eye with *justified* confidence.

The enemy? Is that really how Mr Dunn regards his pupils, or as one says nowadays, his learners? Well not exactly, but he does insist that in every school there are challenging pupils. He bids us get used to that phrase (perhaps you are used to it already).

Backed by over thirty years experience in the classroom, Mr Dunn offers the neophyte what he says he would want himself if he was entering teaching today: a handy booklet of dos and don'ts, backed by strategies he has discovered for himself and proved to be successful. His motto is the six Ps: Perfect Planning and Preparation Prevents Poor Performance.

This little book is packed with useful hints. I pick out one as a taster. *When in a confrontation use I not You*. If a difficult pupil is playing up, the teacher retains control by emphasising himself or herself, not emphasising the pupil. So it is 'I need you to get on with your work' not 'You must get on with your work.' This puts the teacher's will in the forefront, not the pupil's. Mr Dunn adds-

'Believe me when I say that this will not come easily to you. I was intrigued when one of my newly qualified teachers told me she had been practising this "I" not "You" technique on her own children at home and that it had had a profound effect.'

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