

Invaluable advice for the newly qualified

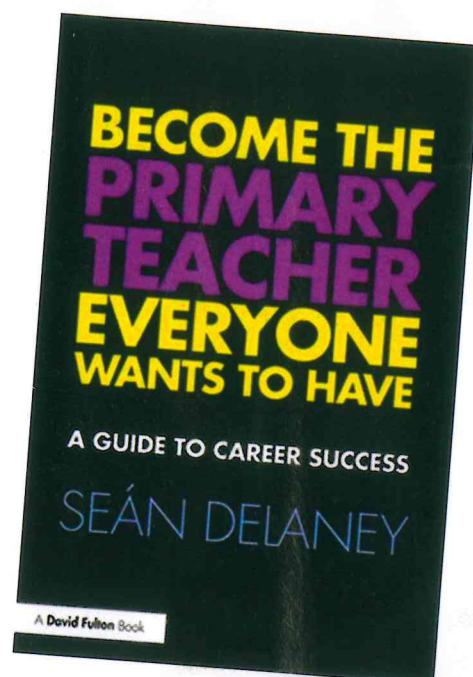
Become the Primary Teacher Everyone wants to have – A Guide to Career Success is written primarily for newly qualified teachers but will be of huge interest and support to even the most experienced practitioner. Its author, Seán Delaney, a senior lecturer in Marino Institute of Education, received a fellowship which gave him the space and time to write this valuable book.

The book's format is user friendly. Each chapter deals with one aspect of teaching and the 'key points' summary at the end of each expertly reinforces the main pieces of advice. Equally invaluable to the reader are the notes and references on each topic. The choice of chapter titles is indicative of the author's

are aspects of the teacher's life which are often neglected as we try to be all things to the children we teach.

While the author is not an advocate of homework – asserting that, "Even when you search across several countries, it is difficult to find any concrete benefits of homework" – he nevertheless offers some great tips on assigning and checking such tasks. Suggestions for varying assignments include giving a weekly allocation which may be completed anytime during the week or making homework optional!

This is a book which will be of great support to teachers at all career stages. It deserves to be widely read and will repay the teacher reader many times over. One



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The first four chapters cover the areas of preparation and planning, classroom management, teaching methods and good practice in communicating with children. While all these topics will have been well covered in pre-service teacher education, this book cuts to the chase and offers sound and practical ideas for those early days and years when novice teachers need it most.

Of particular value to newly qualified teachers is the chapter which deals with communicating with parents and guardians. The advice here is a must read for any teacher who wants to cultivate a warm, approachable and effective relationship with parents. The author also advises on report writing and is practical in his approach to all aspects of parent/teacher interaction.

In the chapter on 'Integrating life, teaching and learning,' insightful counsel is presented on several practice-related topics; 'Teachers need patience,' 'Mind yourself,' 'When inspiration fades' and 'Sensitive topics,' to mention a few. These

big reservation is the choice of title which does not do justice to the serious and well-researched contents. It reads like a self-help or 'quick fix' title which belies this wonderful work.

Routledge. ISBN: 9781138675636. €29.50

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former INTO president.

