

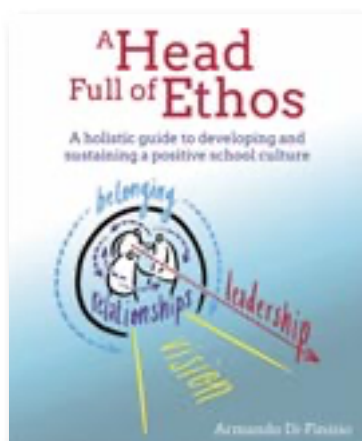
writing about the world he grew up in would have allowed a more genuine poet's voice to emerge more often, as in 'Am I Guilty', 'She Was There' and 'Donncha'.

Anthony Doogan has taken the courageous step of committing himself to print. As he says himself - publish, and be damned. I would encourage him to further efforts in times to come.

Bravo!



Derek West is a former Principal of Newpark Comprehensive in Blackrock, Dublin. He was editor of NAPD publications for many years until 2001.



Title: A Head Full of Ethos

Author: Armando Di-Finizo

Publisher: Crown House Publishing

ISBN: 978-1785835872

Reviewer: Gerard O'Leary,
Principal Celbridge Community School

A Head Full of Ethos is a compelling read that provides highly accessible and practical suggestions to assist school leaders deal with the many and varied challenges that are presented to schools on a daily basis. This book provides leaders in schools with a template to engage in a powerful process of reflection, which can support each school to genuinely put its own unique vision, aim & ethos into practice in a truly meaningful manner. It is acknowledged that there is no quick fix or easy solution to achieving this task. However, a clear pathway to support individual schools achieve and maintain a consistent direction and purpose is clearly set out in very engaging and entertaining manner.

The book is based around four foundations for the application of sustainable ethos that are of universal relevance in any context. Refreshingly, it is highlighted that there is no right or

wrong place to start when considering these areas. This provides schools with the flexibility to action the four distinct foundations of the ethos of leadership, vision, relationships and belonging in a manner that suits the specific situation, context and school at a particular point in time.

A Head Full of Ethos is not just for school leaders – it is extremely relevant for any teacher who assumes a leadership role in a school. The book highlights the importance of collective endeavor by the school leadership team and demonstrates how once a school has a clear purpose and consistent set of values and principles throughout the school, it is possible to achieve a sustainable ethos and vision in practice. It is evident that this will have a powerfully positive impact on the experiences of students will have during their journey through education. Additionally, it is clear that teachers will enjoy great professional fulfillment by working in an enhanced caring environment.

Armando Di-Finizo delivers a sincere and honest account of his own experiences in a witty and humorous fashion. The book is peppered with anecdotes that anybody who has worked in a school will be able to relate to. Additionally, the guidance provided is highly effective in the manner that the reader is supported to interpret, understand and contextualise a wide variety of other educational publications and research. The book is easy to navigate and a "What to take from this chapter" review section at the end of each chapter is an effective summary mechanism in assisting the reader frame the elements that are most pertinent in each context.

Additionally, it acts as a springboard to review and reflect when returning to any particular areas in the future. The importance of a cyclical process in this regard is continually emphasised and is a key message. The power of deep reflection and the enormously positive impact that this can have on a school is underlined through the book.

It is timely, with the disruption of Covid behind us, that, in November, Armando Di-Finizo, in partnership with Graham Powell, will deliver a workshop for NAPD members, which will provide an opportunity to collaboratively explore these ideas in an Irish context.



Gerard O'Leary,
Principal Celbridge Community School.

Write a Review?

Would you like to write review of a book or movie relevant to education, schools and schooling, management & leadership ... ?

A long review can be in region of 700 words, a shorter (and snappier) review in the region of 200 words.