

Introduction

I always wanted to be a head teacher. I was fortunate enough to be appointed a deputy in my twenties and to my first headship in my early thirties. Now twenty years, four schools and ten inspections later, those nice people at Brilliant Publications have invited me to reflect upon the highs and lows of my career, pulling together thoughts for this book in the hope that they may prove useful to aspiring Heads, newly appointed Heads or even tired Heads. In addition to my own schools, I have been executive head at two schools that were in an OFSTED category. I learned a great deal from these experiences. Working in a school that is in a category is tough, very tough and the people who do so have my utmost respect. Whatever type of school you lead – community, voluntary aided, faith, free or academy – I hope there is something of interest for you in this book, which has been written in a conversational style and is divided into sections so you can dip in and out or read from cover to cover.