

**Teacher Name:** Mr Higgins

**School:** Nishkam Primary School Birmingham

**Subject/class:** Year 6

**My route into teaching:**

After graduating from the University of Wolverhampton with a degree in English and Film Studies, I spent a year travelling across four different continents with friends. It may sound like a cliché, but it truly was an experience that broadened my horizons. Upon my return, I found employment as a buyer for an I.T. firm. During my free-time (evenings and weekends), I volunteered as a football coach and this quickly developed as a huge passion. Over the following years, I sought to undertake coaching qualifications, which culminated in achieving a UEFA 'B' FA Coaching License. I spent a year in the USA coaching soccer to children aged between 4-19 and it was during this time that I realised I just had to find a career that involved working with children. I applied to start teacher training before my return flight had been booked. I completed my Primary PGCE at the University of Birmingham in 2010 and haven't looked back since.

**Why I love my job:**

I love my job because I am in the extremely privileged position where I get to help children achieve their goals and develop as people. Getting to watch our students grow, learn new skills and achieve successful outcomes are the rewards of hard work. I do not think there are words that can adequately describe the immense feeling of satisfaction that comes from being part of a child's learning journey. I challenge anyone to name a place that is filled with more smiles and laughter than a classroom!

**Why Nishkam:**

As a teacher, I have always wanted to work in a school that really does take a holistic approach to education, where a child's academic, social, emotional and spiritual development are all equally important. A school where being an excellent mathematician and being someone who is compassionate is equally important. A school where being a confident and passionate reader and being someone who is selfless and caring is equally important. A school where being a skilled and expressive writer and being someone who is optimistic, tolerant and forgiving is equally important. A school where being an outstanding historian, scientist, artist and sportsperson and being someone who will go on to contribute positively to society and their community is equally important.

At Nishkam Primary School, I've found that perfect balance.

**Next steps for me:**

When I came into teaching, my sole objective was to develop into the very best practitioner that I could be. After 11 years of teaching, nothing has changed; I am still striving for excellence and the process of learning, developing and improving never stops. I love being in the classroom, but I also have aspirations to help our school grow and move forward from a position where I can use my experience to raise standards and contribute to our school's future successes on a more strategic level.