

Teacher Name: Miss Edwards

School: Nishkam Primary School Birmingham

Subject/class: Year 1, Subject lead of Art and Design Technology

My route into teaching:

I considered teacher from a young age, as I enjoyed working with people of all ages. However, at age seventeen the commitment of undertaking teacher training daunted me so I opted to complete a BA honours instead. My undergraduate degree brought me to Birmingham and was in Visual Communication. This included photography, print making, illustration, fine art as well as other creative media. As part of my degree I had my work published in local newspapers and exhibited in a gallery in Birmingham. During my undergraduate degree, I was involved in several community arts projects such as the Big Hoot, which brought me to working with children again. It was at this time that I started to think seriously about a career in teaching, so I decided to complete my PGCE at Birmingham City university.

Why I love my job:

"Why I love my job?" is not an easy question to answer, because there are so many answers. Working with children, especially in the younger year groups makes everyday a journey. We all know journeys rarely happen in a straight line, there are often loops and curls. Yet that moment when a child's eyes light up and seeing those steps of progress everyday is so rewarding, especially when you remember children's starting points.

Most days though, it is about the relationships you forge with the children. As a class, a school even, you become a family. With virtues at the heart of our curriculum, there is so much warmth and affection that comes from our children. This love that they give you makes coming to work everyday amazing. There are days where we laugh, cry, sing, dance, read, paint, run together. All of them are amazing.

Why Nishkam:

I joined Nishkam as a teaching student during my PGCE and was overwhelmed by the school ethos. Being at Nishkam made me feel at ease with my own Faith and nurtured in me a desire to help others. I am very grateful to my student mentor Mrs D.Kaur who gave me such a wonderful instruction to the school.

Still to this day I remember sitting in that first Faith assembly, listening to the children do kirtan with goose bumps creeping up my arms. I will never forget it. The vision of the school and how the children discussed virtues in everyday life made me want to stay, so I applied for a job within the school and was lucky enough to be accepted.

Since being at Nishkam, I have been lucky enough to teach in both reception and Year 1. I have got to know many families over the years and it is a privilege I do not take for granted. I have also taken on a Subject leadership role in Art and Design Technology. This has offered me the opportunity to further my passions and help instill the same enthusiasm in our children. Being Nishkam though, the virtues are firmly at the heart of our curriculum and that makes working at Nishkam a gift.