

Teacher Name: Jacqueline Brettle

School: Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton

Subject/Class: SENDCo



My route in: As a child growing up in the early '70s, from a low income, working-class family, attending the local school, I was inspired by my Headteacher to become a teacher. He nurtured my creativity and encouraged me to pursue my dreams, to reach for the sky! I am a mum of three, now grown-up sons. When the boys were young, I wanted to ensure I could support their learning and spend as much time as possible with them. So I contacted my own primary school, where the same Headteacher was still in post. I asked for a voluntary placement at the school. I enrolled at college in 1996 to qualify as a nursery nurse. I then continued to learn and develop my own skills and qualifications. I secured a position in a pre-school, where I stayed for 3 years, moving to a special school, which I loved and stayed for 4 years. Then, I embarked on achieving my degree and qualified teacher status. My honours degree is in 'Special Needs and Inclusion', something I am very passionate about, from both a personal and professional aspect. Having a son with special needs and a disability, secured my desire to advocate for children with special needs, to ensure equality for all. Before my post here at Nishkam, I was a SENDCo/Inclusion Manager for nearly 15 years, in a large primary school.

Why I love my job: Children are our future leaders, we learn from them every day. I love listening to children, encouraging them to resolve and solve any issues they may have within their learning or friendships. My greatest achievement in life, is child-centered, first with my own boys, and then with the thousands of children, I have had the pleasure to teach and get to know over the many years I have been in education. I love getting to know their personalities, building trusting relationships with them and their families, and hopefully contributing to inspiring our next generation. No two days are ever the same, I walk into school every morning with great anticipation about what the day may hold. Who will make me laugh or even cry today? They say 'life is a roller-coaster and I, for sure, want to buy a ticket and take that journey for as long as I possibly can.

Why Nishkam: I was initially drawn to Nishkam, after meeting Mr Dhanjal on a course when I was at my previous school. I loved the passion and ethos of his words about faith-inspired learning, and the embedded virtues such as selflessness, compassion, forgiveness, love, and peacefulness. It really resonated with my own faith and beliefs and inclusion. I went home and said to my husband, "I wish the SENDCo job would become available at Nishkam" and as fate would have it, shortly after it did. From the moment I stepped through the door, it felt right, it felt like home. Nishkam is a family, a family I am proud to be part of, it is a wonderful place to work and an honour to teach your children.

Next steps for me: I will continue to ensure that learning and teaching are accessible to all children. That we build a future generation of children with, compassion, humility and love for each other. I will endeavor to educate about differences for acceptance and understanding. I never stand still and will continue to develop my own pedagogy, learn from my colleagues and pass on my skills to them and the children.