



## MRS MASHAL

TEACHING ASSISTANT

LIME TREE PRIMARY ACADEMY

### BACKGROUND

My name is Mrs Mashal. I previously worked in customer service at a shipping company, and as a working mother, I have always felt like I've missed out on some of my son's firsts, so when we moved to Manchester in 2007, the choice to become a stay-at-home mum was the only decision to make. I was blessed with a daughter in 2008 and I thoroughly enjoyed being a full-time mum to my two children.

### MY JOURNEY TO BECOMING A TEACHING ASSISTANT

My son started nursery at Lime Tree Primary School (not an academy then) in 2008, and before we knew it Lime Tree became a part of our little family, or was it the other way round? I don't really know :) I joined the PTA, the school governing body, then started volunteering at the school office and offering help whenever and wherever needed.

It was in 2012, when my daughter started school herself, that I started looking into getting back into education, yet I was unsure what I wanted to do, and it was then that a dinner time assistant vacancy came up. I applied, interviewed, and got the job. I carried on with my role on the PTA as well as volunteering one day a week in my son's class. Shortly after, the headteacher asked if I would be interested in supporting a child in Year 6 as a learning support assistant which I really enjoyed. This made my decision to start my teaching assistant qualification a lot easier.

In 2013, I worked as a class teaching assistant which contributed to the placement element to gain my qualification. I have since worked as a teaching assistant at Lime Tree across Year 1, Year 2, and for a short while in EYFS. I love working with young minds who find wonder and magic in everything they see, and I like to think that I had helped them (even by a tiny fraction) in becoming the young people they aspire to be. I love offering a different perspective to curriculum and helping my colleagues in bringing my lived experience, as an Arab, Muslim British woman, to some of their lessons.

### WHY I LOVE LIME TREE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Lime Tree has always been my village. A family-like atmosphere prevails in the building, and I trust that the staff's wellbeing is a priority. The school community has offered guidance and support to me as a parent and always made me feel welcome. The support has remained consistent as I became a member of staff. The wealth of expertise amongst staff members is incomparable, and I have been fortunate to share their experience and learn from the best. In addition, opportunities for professional development are available, and can be requested. Lime Tree is truly "a place where everyone loves to learn".