



*this is my story*

When I look back to growing up in the Caribbean I realise that I have always ‘taught’ in some way. As the third of seven children I was always responsible for doing extra classes for my sisters, teaching them to read and teaching them times tables. My dad even used one of our old wooden doors and painted it black so that I could use it as a chalkboard for teaching! Teachers in the Caribbean are respected and held in the highest regard. I knew that I wanted to be one of those people. I came to the UK to study and decided to remain. I have never regretted my decision – not once.

I came to Curwen as a trainee teacher in 2014, then began teaching in 2015 as what was then an ‘NQT’ or Newly Qualified Teacher. Surprisingly, I never wanted to work in schools or to become a teacher! However, working with children seemed to be calling me.

Prior to coming to Curwen I worked in a secondary school as a Learning Support Assistant, and it was then that I realised that I actually wanted to remain in the classroom. I am very glad that I made the move from secondary to primary.

To say that I am busy is an understatement! In addition to being a primary school teacher I am also a poet, workshop facilitator, cake decorator and artist. I enjoy writing and performing my poetry and have done so at numerous Newham events – including at school! I have also appeared in the Newham Voices newspaper. People often ask me where I find the time for everything, to which my response is that you don’t find time you make time.

Growing up in the Caribbean I always thought I could only be one thing and have one career, but I have proven to myself that you can be everything you want to be!

**Ms Charlynnne Bryan**