

**Carla Ferreira**  
**Higher Level Teaching Assistant**

At Winsor Primary School we believe that every child matters regardless of their socio-economic background, race or learning abilities. Our aim is to ensure that every child has the chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of educational failure, making sure that they have a range of experiences and that they grow in confidence. It is inspirational and rewarding to contribute to this goal.

Through training and CPD opportunities members of Winsor staff stay up-to-date with new teaching methods and qualifications. The school offered me the opportunity to gain a Teaching Assistant (TA) qualification and subsequently progress onto becoming a teaching assistant mentor. Being a mentor made me feel a respected and valued member of Winsor, whilst the TA qualification greatly strengthened my knowledge in supporting children experiencing learning difficulties, amongst other teaching skills.

My passion for teaching began through my experience of working with disadvantaged children in war-torn Angola. Despite the challenges, this experience has enlightened me to the importance of how commitment and dedication can have a positive impact on a child's life. With that in mind, I applied for a TA position at Winsor. What I remember most about that day, apart from my nerves, was the friendly atmosphere where both staff and pupils take pride and enjoy being part of a diverse school community.

More recently, I started a new role as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and I have already been encouraged to undertake my teacher training via the School Direct Programme funded by the school. Winsor's relentless support and value for each child and member of staff creates a thriving environment where everyone feels safe and empowered. Also, our excellent family liaison and community links are key to building the confidence of parents and encouraging them to take part in school life.

As I continue my journey at Winsor, I look forward to progressing personally and professionally as well as seeing pupils being proud of their achievements.